

Ghali warns of Haiti invasion

UNITED NATIONS (AP) — The head of the United Nations said Tuesday that a U.N. mission to ensure the peaceful departure of Haiti's military leaders has failed and the next step could be a U.S.-led invasion. U.N. envoy Rolf Knutsson returned from the Dominican Republic on Monday after Haitian military leaders refused to meet with him. "We have not been successful because the military people in Haiti refused to talk with my special representative," U.N. Secretary General Boutros Ghali told reporters after he briefed the Security Council on the mission. "I will not continue this mission unless in the future I receive a mandate from the Security Council or if there is a drastic change in Haiti." Mr. Knutsson's goal was to pave the way for a formal U.N. mission to negotiate the departure of Haiti's military leaders. The U.N. called on Haiti's military leaders to step down in a resolution adopted July 31 that also authorised a possible U.S.-led invasion to remove the military from power and return President Jean-Bertrand Aristide to office. "We tried to have a peaceful implementation of resolution 940 but we have not been successful," Mr. Boutros-Ghali said.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation
جوردان تايمز يومية مستقلة تصدر عن المؤسسة للصحافة الأردنية، الرأى

Volume 18 Number 5702

AMMAN WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 31, 1994, RAB' ALAWAL 23, 1415

Price: Jordan 150 Fils

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FORTE GRAND
AMMAN

Crisis over seized cargo ends

AMMAN (AP) — Saudi authorities have released cargo they seized from Jordan-bound vessels, ending a crisis that threatened already strained relations, a senior shipping official said Tuesday. Suban Muheisin, director of Jordan's Shipping Agents Association, said officials at the Saudi port of Jeddah have accepted to release the cargo after extensive contacts made during the past three weeks. "The cargo was released and loaded onto four vessels," Mr. Muheisin told the Associated Press. He said the ships would arrive separately at Aqaba on Tuesday and Wednesday. He declined to provide other details. Officials have said Saudi authorities on Aug. 12 forced three European vessels docked at Jeddah to unload Jordan-bound cargo, mainly food and other commodities imported by private traders here.

Qadhafi mediates between Sudan, Egypt

CAIRO (AFP) — Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi is trying to mediate an end to a bitter dispute between Egypt and Sudan by bringing together their leaders in Tripoli, Egyptian officials said Tuesday. Egypt's President Hosni Mubarak will take part in celebrations in the Libyan capital on Thursday to mark the 25th anniversary of Qadhafi's rise to power. And meeting in Libya with his Sudanese counterpart Omar al-Bashir on the sidelines of the festivities has "not been ruled out," the official told AFP. Relations between the two countries have soured since the military junta seized power in Khartoum in a coup d'etat in 1989.

DFLP claims Gaza attack

DAMASCUS (AP) — A radical Palestinian faction Tuesday said it ambushed an Israeli patrol the night before in the Gaza Strip. The Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine quoted a statement by its military wing inside the occupied territories as saying a group of its fighters ambushed the patrol in the northern Gaza Strip using automatic guns. The Damascus-based DFLP said the fighters withdrew safely after directly hitting the Israeli targets, but gave no details of casualties. Israeli military sources told the Associated Press in Israel that it was "probably" the DFLP that was responsible for firing at several army vehicles accompanying an Israeli car en route to the Netzarim settlement south of Gaza City. There were no injuries.

Russian craft fails to dock with space station

MOSCOW (R) — A Russian cargo craft on Tuesday failed for the second time to dock with the orbiting Mir space station and the could force the abandonment of the current space mission, independent Russian television said. The television showed live pictures of the cargo craft — carrying water, food and technical equipment for the three-man crew — closely approaching the space station in the second failed docking attempt in four days.

Owen urges big powers to unite on Bosnia

GENEVA (R) — European Union mediator Lord Owen on Tuesday urged the big powers to avoid divisions on Bosnia, saying a united front would push Bosnia Serbs into eventually accepting the peace plan they rejected in a weekend referendum. Lord Owen, co-chairman of the International Conference on the Former Yugoslavia (ICFY), said Western members of the five-nation "contact group" that drew up the plan should listen to Russia.

King, Mitterrand hold talks in Paris today

'Peace process progressing well'

PARIS (Agencies) — Their Majesties King Hussein and Queen Noor Tuesday arrived in the French capital on a two-day visit to France at the invitation of French President Francois Mitterrand, the Jordanian News Agency, Petra, announced. According to Petra King Hussein will hold talks on bilateral relations and issues of common interest with President Mitterrand and senior French officials.

The King and Queen were welcomed at Paris's Orly airport by European Affairs Minister Alain Lamassoure. The King will hold meetings Wednesday with President Mitterrand and Prime Minister Edouard Balladur before flying to London late Thursday.

The King visited France in July last year, followed by visits to Amman by French Foreign Minister Alain Juppe in November and February. Foreign ministry spokesman Richard Duque said the visits were proof of "the friendship and intensity of political contacts between the two countries."

France has "constantly backed Jordan on a financial level" and helped slash by \$1.21 billion Jordan's foreign debt in June, according to the foreign ministry. King Hussein said in an

interview published Tuesday that Jordan might sign a peace agreement with Israel "very soon" but he refused to give a date.

The King, interviewed by the Israeli Yediot Ahronot newspaper during his visit to Bonn, would not be drawn on a visit to Jerusalem, saying "everything in good time."

"The process (between Israel and Jordan) is progressing well, really well. Major progress has been made in recent days and I am pleased with the discussions," he added.

The two neighbours began peace talks on July 18 and a week later the King signed a declaration with Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin ending 46 years of a state of war.

Before leaving Bonn for Paris the King discussed German aid to Jordan with Bonn Development Minister Carl-Dieter Spranger.

Mr. Spranger told the King that Germany, Jordan's biggest non-Arab donor country after the United States, would maintain its involvement in the region, the development ministry said in a statement.

Mr. Spranger also called on German companies to invest more in the Middle East in order to support the peace process. Germany gave aid of about

44 million marks (\$28 million) to Jordan last year and wrote off Jordanian debt of 29.5 million marks (\$18.6 million).

The statement said the two countries planned to negotiate writing off a similar amount of debt in Bonn in October.

On Monday the King secured German support for the peace process in the Middle East during meetings with Chancellor Helmut Kohl and Foreign Minister Klaus Kinkel.

Petra said the King briefed Mr. Spranger on Jordan's role in the peace process and developments on the Jordanian-Israeli track.

The King noted Jordan's great sacrifices over the past four decades, saying that Jordan has shouldered the major burden of the Palestine problem.

The King is accompanied by their Royal Highnesses Princes Hamzah and Hashem, Royal Court Chief Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker, Chief Chamberlain Prince Ra'd Ben Zeid, the King's political advisor Marwan Al Qassem, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Talal Sataan Al Hassan, Minister of Industry and Trade Rima Khalaf and member of the Upper House of Parliament Jamal Naser.



His Majesty King Hussein and Her Majesty Queen Noor Tuesday arrive from Germany at the Middle East peace process (AFP photo)

Musa relents to Israeli pressure to visit memorial

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — Egyptian Foreign Minister Amr Musa under pressure from Israel, agreed to visit on Wednesday Israel's Holocaust memorial to the six million Jews murdered by the Nazis.

His original programme did not include the haunting memorial and threatened to sour the first official visit to Israel by Cairo's top diplomat since the two countries signed a peace treaty in 1979.

"I am looking forward to visiting the children's memorial," Mr. Musa said Tuesday after talks with his Israeli counterpart Shimon Peres.

"You should know we are very sensitive to your sensitivities," he said. "I hope it will add to good relations between Israel and Egypt."

Mr. Peres added: "We don't force anybody, we don't make it an obligation. This is not an imposition, this is a proposition."

But former foreign minister David Levy announced Monday he would boycott an official dinner for Musa in protest and local papers had blasted him for alleged insensitivity.



Amr Musa

The late Egyptian President Anwar Sadat visited the Jerusalem memorial during his historic trip in 1977. It is traditionally the first stopping point for all ministers on official visits to Israel.

Musa began the two-day visit with a call for comprehensive peace.

The only Arab state to sign a treaty with Israel, Egypt has sought to break the deadlock in peace talks with Syria and is urged "all in return for all" — a total Israeli withdrawal from the Golan

Heights in exchange for full peace.

"Peace with Syria will require by necessity all for all. Let us not fool ourselves: there can be no peace without full withdrawal," he warned.

Mr. Peres repeated Israel's wish for secret as well as open talks with Syria to try and make progress.

The visit, "represents a promotion in the relations between Egypt and Israel," Mr. Peres said.

Mr. Musa went on to meet five Arab members of the Knesset, or parliament.

Labour MP and Deputy health minister Nawaf Masalha said: "We talked about Jerusalem and stressed that relations between Israel and Jordan should not be at the expense of the Palestinians' right to Jerusalem."

Mr. Musa was later to have talks with opposition leader Benjamin Netanyahu.

On Wednesday, he was due to deliver a message from President Hosni Mubarak to Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin before meeting a senior Palestinian delegation in East Jerusalem.

PLO protests to U.N. over mosque division

GAZA CITY, Gaza (Agencies) — The Palestine National Authority announced Tuesday it would protest to the U.N. Security Council over Israel's "carve-up" of the Hebron mosque in a bid to separate Jewish and Muslim worshippers.

"We refuse this carve-up which is a disaster and supports the massacre carried out six months ago," the Palestinian cooperation "minister" Nabil Shaath told AFP. A protest will be made to the Security Council on Sunday.

"Israel has turned the mosque into a ghetto," he charged.

The comments came amid reports in the Palestinian press that the mosque in the occupied West Bank would be reopened next week with Jews granted most of the space under a plan to keep the two faiths apart.

The Tomb of the Patriarchs, which houses the mosque, has been closed since a Jewish settler murdered over 30 praying Muslims there on Feb. 25.

Israel has ordered building work in the complex in line with inquiry recommendations to provide separate entrances and praying halls for Jews and Muslims.

"Instead of stopping settlers such as the assassin from entering the mosque, the

Palestinian people and the mosque believers are being punished," Mr. Shaath said.

He said the partitions being put up by Israel violated a United Nations resolution passed after the slaughter which urged protection for Palestinians. However, Resolution 904 makes no mention of worship in the mosque.

Hebron Mayor Mustafa Natch called Tuesday for Jews to be prevented from praying in the tomb.

"We prefer that only Muslims should be allowed to pray in the mosque, and Jews be allowed to visit only, not to pray, outside Muslim prayer time," he said.

Israeli MPs who toured the complex Tuesday said the building work had not been finished.

Officials noted that no date has been set for the reopening of the complex which had been a mosque since the Arab conquest of the Holy Land in 638, apart from the Crusader period between 1100 and 1260.

The Bible records that in Hebron God made a covenant with Abraham as father of the chosen people. When he died he was buried alongside his wife in a cave there and later joined by their son Isaac and his son Jacob.

Jews and Muslims believe the fortress-like tomb, first constructed by Herod the

Great around 20 BC, is built over the cave.

Israeli lawmakers said Tuesday that Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin apparently has decided to divide the cave area in two, with the Isaac prayer hall reserved for Muslims and the Abraham and Jacob prayer halls for Jews.

The other option would have been to designate different prayer times for Muslims and Jews.

Under the new arrangements, Jews would be kept out of the whole cave area on Muslim holidays, and on Jewish holidays Muslims would have to stay away, said the legislators, Yehoshua Matza and Benny Temkin.

Mr. Rabin's spokesman, Oded Ben-Ami, said the prime minister has not made a final decision yet whether worshippers should be kept apart by physical barriers or a separate timetable.

Noam Arnon, spokesman of the 450 Jewish settlers living among 80,000 Palestinians in Hebron, said Jewish worshippers would also not accept a division and would stage protests at the cave.

"Justice must be done, and it means that Jews must be able to pray in all areas, at all times," Mr. Arnon said, adding that he preferred the arrangement before the massacre under which Muslims and Jews took turns praying.

Pakistan expels Indian diplomat

ISLAMABAD (R) — Pakistan, locked in a war of words with India over nuclear weapons, on Tuesday ordered the Indian consul in Karachi to leave, accusing him of spying.

A government statement said J.J. Singh had been declared persona non grata "in view of his involvement in activities that are incompatible with his diplomatic status."

It said Mr. Singh had been told to leave within a week, but gave no details of the case against him.

Diplomats at the Indian High Commission in Islamabad could not immediately be reached for comment.

Pakistan and India each expelled two of the other's officials in July in a tit-for-tat espionage row.

Both sides accused the other of spying through local agents, beating up one of its officials to get a confession and violating a code of conduct they signed in 1992 on the treatment of diplomats. Pakistani and Indian officials met in Islamabad after the expulsions and agreed to adhere to the code.

The Pakistani foreign ministry said on Aug. 2 it was considering closing down the Indian consulate in Karachi because India would not let Pakistan reopen a consulate in Bombay.

India and Pakistan, which have fought three wars since their independence from Britain in 1947, have often accused each other's diplomatic staff of spying.

Islamabad and New Delhi have also been sparing over former Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif's assertion last week that Pakistan has an atomic bomb. He said any Indian attack on Pakistan could set off a nuclear holocaust.

President Farooq Leghari and Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto have denied the opposition leader's statement, but India said Mr. Sharif had stripped the veil from Pakistan's nuclear ambitions.

On Saturday, Pakistan offered to renounce nuclear weapons if New Delhi did the same.

India dismissed the offer on Tuesday as an attempt to cover up Islamabad's secret atomic weapons programme.

A foreign ministry spokesman told reporters in New Delhi that India was still awaiting Pakistan's response to a proposal it made last January to sign a joint nuclear "no-first-use" pledge.

Pakistan leaders say the Indian proposal is irrelevant because Islamabad does not have nuclear weapons.

"The Pakistani suggestion for a joint declaration denouncing nuclear weapons is an obvious bid to cover up its discomfiture and embarrassment now that Pakistan's clandestine nuclear weapons programme stands exposed by their own admission," the Indian spokesman said.

3 Hizbollah men, one Israeli soldier killed

SIDON, Lebanon (Agencies)

— Three Hizbollah commanders and one Israeli soldier were killed after an army patrol was ambushed by guerrillas in southern Lebanon late Monday, the pro-Iranian organisation said Tuesday.

A spokesman for the Hizbollah said one of its members had been killed in fighting during the ambush. His body had been recovered, he added, claiming that there had been 16 Israeli casualties.

Two other Hizbollah fighters were killed in Kfarbinit outside the occupied area during Israeli bombardments after the attack, the spokesman added.

A military spokesman in Tel Aviv said one soldier had

been killed and two others wounded in the attack.

The Hizbollah has spearheaded anti-Israeli resistance in southern Lebanon.

Two soldiers were killed on August 6 in an attack by the Hizbollah's armed wing, the Islamic Resistance.

Monday's clash fuelled tension in south Lebanon, the last active Arab-Israeli war front.

Hizbollah said in a statement that the "three martyrs" will be buried in nearby villages after a funeral service in Nabatiyeh, a market town just north of an Israeli-occupied enclave in South Lebanon.

According to Lebanese

security sources, three guerrillas fired rocket-propelled grenades at an Israeli patrol and a military car in South Lebanon Monday night.

Surviving Israeli troops and allied South Lebanon Army militiamen encircled the attackers and killed them in a shootout that lasted 30 minutes.

The Israeli casualties had been immediately evacuated by helicopters, the sources added.

They said Israeli and SLA forces blasted suspected guerrilla bases and infiltration trails facing the enclave's central sector with tank and 155mm Howitzer fire all night. No casualties were reported from the bombardment.

Tension has been running high in South Lebanon since a June 2 Israeli air raid on a Hizbollah training base in east Lebanon's Bekaa Valley where up to 50 recruits were reported killed. There have been almost daily clashes in the region.

Hizbollah, or party of God, leads a guerrilla war aimed at dislodging Israel from the 1,100-square-kilometre enclave that Israel carved out in 1983 to shield its northern flank from cross-border guerrilla assaults.

The strip, which has a predominantly Shiite population of 200,000, is routinely patrolled by 1,200 Israeli troops and 2,500 SLA militiamen.

مكتبة المنهج

Egyptian court rejects anti-conference suit

CAIRO (Agencies) — A court on Tuesday rejected a suit by Muslim fundamentalists aimed at blocking next week's U.N. international population conference. The court said the case was outside its jurisdiction.

The lawyers who brought suit said they would file an immediate appeal, but it was unclear if it would be heard before the meeting starts next Sunday.

It was not expected Egyptian courts would rule against holding the conference, which has been in the planning stage for years and is expected to draw 15,000 participants from around the world.

Muslim fundamentalists have complained that the conference's draft proposals support abortion and sex education and would encourage outside marriage.

The lawyers' suits argued that Egypt's constitution says its legal code runs contrary to Islamic principles.

"Egypt is an Islamic country which shouldn't allow this conference to be held here," said Abdul Halim Mandour, one of the lawyers bringing suit.

Conference organisers have argued the conference document is only a proposal to be debated at the meeting. They also note that no country will be required to adopt programmes recommended by the conference.

The decision of the Administrative Judicial Court, read by Judge Abdul Aziz Hamada, said three suits concerning the conference were outside its jurisdiction since President Hosni Mubarak had invited the conference to Cairo and had the right to do so.

Two Islamic countries,

Saudi Arabia and Sudan, are boycotting the meeting.

Sudan's government, in announcing its boycott Monday night, urged other Muslim nations to also withdraw because the meeting would result in "the spread of immoral and irreligious values."

The Saudi representative at the United Nations in New York sent a message earlier this week "regretting they are not going to participate," an official at conference headquarters in Cairo said Tuesday.

Saudi Arabia and Sudan are the first countries known to withdraw from the conference.

Sudan's minister of social planning, Ali Osman Mohammed Taha, said in announcing the boycott that Sudan was trying to organise a forum for opponents of the meeting.

He also complained that the conference reflects the views of the United States, telling reporters "a considerable number" of conference resolutions reflect the policies that brought President Carter to office.

Abdul Basit Sabadrat, minister of culture and information, said that opposing the conference was "a kind of jihad (holy war) against corruption and the new hegemony which some seek to impose on us."

The complaints about the United States echoed statements by some Muslim radicals who have charged the U.S. government wants to spread what they regard as immoral Western values into the Islamic world.

U.S. Vice President Al Gore, who will attend the conference, has said the United States does not want to impose its views on other

countries, but feels that the population explosion is a danger to the entire world.

Meanwhile, Iran was urged to boycott the conference on Tuesday by two newspapers.

Jomhuri Islami, a daily close to Islamic hardliners, argued Iran's participation in the conference could be taken as a sign that the Islamic republic approved of the draft action plan.

Jahan-e-Islam, representing Islamic radicals warned the conference was a "plot against Islam and should be strongly opposed."

"Iranian leaders should break their silence and unequivocally condemn this anti-Islamic move," it said.

Iranian Health Minister Alireza Marandi said on Sunday that Iran would take part in the conference to make its position known and put forward proposals to alter parts of the draft plan.

He said parts of the plan were "completely vague and contained double meanings" which had to be rectified.

The authors of the document were "mainly Westerners and Western-educated people whose moral ideas differed" with those held in Islamic Iran, he said.

Several Shiite Muslim clerics in Iran have also criticised the conference in recent days, saying it was a Western plot to liberalise abortion, homosexuality and premarital sex in the Islamic world.

A leading Iranian clergyman, Abbas Ali Amid Zanjani, denounced the conference on Sunday, charging that the forum promoted abortion.

Abortion has been strictly banned in Iran since the 1979 Islamic revolution which toppled the pro-Western Shah.



Egyptian policemen Tuesday patrol in the front of the International Conference Hall in Nasser City, a Cairo suburb. The conference hall will host the U.N. World Population Conference from Sept. 5-13. An estimated 20,000 delegates from more than 150 countries are expected to attend the conference (AFP photo)

'Oman arrests linked to Muslim Brotherhood'

LONDON (R) — Scores of Islamists arrested in Oman for allegedly trying to destabilise the Gulf oil state are close to the moderate Muslim Brotherhood, the London-based Arabic daily Al Hayat said Tuesday.

It said Sheikh Mohammed Al Ghazali, 55, a religious leader from Oman's southern Dhofar province, was among more than 200 people whom the authorities said on Sunday they had arrested for organising sedition in the guise of Islam.

"They used the Islamic religion as a front to break national unity with which the Omani Muslim community is blessed," Oman said in a statement. "Investigations have revealed connections in organisation and financial aspects with foreign groups. Some of them will be referred to court to look into their case."

The statement said those arrested were members of a "secret organisation" but said many had already been freed.

The Saudi-owned Al Hayat said the crackdown surprised Islamic political circles in the Gulf because it involved sym-

pathisers of the Brotherhood, which is considered less militant than other Islamists who use violence for political ends.

The Muslim Brotherhood was for years the principal forum for political agitation to run Arab and other states with majority Muslim populations on strictly Islamic lines. It has often been sidelined in recent years by more radical groups.

Strongest perhaps in Egypt, it is largely tolerated by the authorities in that country which have waged a fierce campaign against violent Islamic militancy.

Al Hayat said the crackdown in Oman, where political parties are banned and dissent is seldom tolerated, started in mid-June with the arrest of a number of Egyptians and Jordanians, some university teachers.

It did not name any but a London-based group "Liberty for Muslim World" said in a fax to Reuters on Saturday it was concerned about the fate in Oman of an Egyptian academic, Ahmad Bahaa Khayri.

It said Mr. Khayri, who taught engineering at Sultan

Qaboos University, was first arrested on June 13 and had been detained indefinitely since June 26 after refusing to sign a document containing an alleged confession.

The London group alleged Mr. Khayri was tortured during his detention and said political prisoners in Oman are not allowed to appoint lawyers and can be held indefinitely without trial.

Al Hayat said Mr. Ghazali's businessman brother Salem was captured in a swoop by the military within his palace grounds before spiriting him away.

It said the Sheikh and another brother Hamed had since been released but Salem remained in jail.

Gulf diplomats said the arrests appeared to be limited although they included senior civil servants, including one official with the rank of ministry under-secretary.

Al Hayat quoted a Gulf Islamist leader as describing the arrests as no more than a warning to Islamic militants that Oman was prepared to crack down hard if they went beyond certain limits.

Yemenis suffer bread shortage

By Assem Abdul Mohsen
Reuters

SANAA — Bread is becoming increasingly scarce, and loaves have become smaller, for Yemenis trying to emerge from a devastating two-month civil war.

One citizen, standing outside a bakery in central Sanaa, said he had been waiting for about three hours to get bread, the country's staple, for his family.

"Something has to be done. The fat cats (black marketeers) are getting fatter and nobody bothers about our sufferings," another said.

During the war that ended on July 7 with victory for President Ali Abdullah Saleh against his southern secessionist opponents, the price of some staples rose by up to 20 per cent.

Prices of unsubsidised goods like sugar, cigarettes, butter and biscuits have started to come down though they remain well above pre-war levels.

But people are complaining they are unable to get the subsidised goods, distributed through the government machinery, blaming middlemen and black marketeers. Bakers blame the shortage

on the government for failing to provide them with their normal quotas of flour, most of which is imported and then distributed at subsidised prices.

Officially, the price of the ordinary loaf remains unchanged at one rial (1 1/4 U.S. cents) but its weight and size have been cut by more than 50 per cent, citizens said.

The price of better quality bread, while its size has remained constant, has doubled to two rials (three cents) a loaf, citizens said. Either way people are getting half as much bread for their money.

"If as a member of the parliament I cannot get wheat for myself, how about others?" asked Ismail Abdul Rahman, a member of parliament.

Parliamentarians, whose remarks have been broadcast by Sanaa television, have launched unusually scathing attacks on the government for failing to ensure subsidised commodities were reaching the needy.

They blamed the crisis on government inefficiency, nepotism and corruption.

"People are fed up with this government. We want an urgent solution to the hungry bellies," Mr. Abdul Rahman said.

For Arafat, self-rule means he rules

By Neil MacFarquhar
The Associated Press

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM — Yasser Arafat, facing challenges from Islamic opponents and disgruntled loyalists, rules a government largely paralysed because it revolves entirely around him.

No government appointment can be made without passing across his desk. He must supervise the construction of Gaza airport personally. Senior officials must have his signature even to get the small sums needed to travel to Jordan.

"Arafat's style of leadership is that he is the only decision-maker, so he is making everyone irrelevant whether his own men from Tunis or local politicians," said Khalil Shikaki, a Gaza native and head of the Centre for Palestine Research and Studies in the West Bank.

Since he first arrived in Gaza from Palestine Liberation Organisation headquarters in Tunis, Tunisia, in early July, Mr. Arafat's frequent mood swings and angry outbursts have some officials wondering about his health.

The machinery of government is in limbo, missing or patched together from whatever the Israelis left when they withdrew in May. "Even those who are willing to work hard to build a state have found themselves unable to do anything. This creates chaos," said Azmi Shuaibi, minister of youth in the Palestinian National Authority, the 18-member council supposed to supervise self-rule.

Mr. Arafat is sharply critical of the lack of economic aid.

Western officials say the Palestinians have received \$150 million so far. Foreign donors have withheld \$300 million pledged for major infrastructure projects, demanding some form of agency to account for the funds.

Many worry about his commitment to democracy. He closed two newspapers deemed insufficiently loyal, and the Voice of Palestine news broadcasts focus on him. A suspected Israeli informant died under police interrogation.

With his main political opponents, he has been trying to win loyalty and avoid confrontation. After the Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas, claimed responsibility for a series of attacks against Israelis, police arrested 40 for questioning. Mr. Arafat ordered them released.

Local Fatah organisers have been angered by not getting important jobs. Mr. Arafat has been funneling them into preventive security, a secret police force that has started to compete with the regular police. Ties between Mr. Arafat and top police Maj. Gen. Nasser Yousef are publicly strained.

Mr. Arafat is famous for blurring the lines of responsibility so that everyone is dependent on him, but the risks in volatile Gaza are enormous.

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Turkey supports N. Cyprus measures

ANKARA (R) — Turkey pledged support on Tuesday for efforts by the breakaway Turkish republic in North Cyprus to move closer to Ankara and away from a federal solution for the divided Mediterranean island.

"It... the TRNC (Turkish Republic of North Cyprus) is condemned to an impasse by the one-sided efforts of the other side which contravene the idea of equality, it will be inescapable... for Turkey to take precautions so as to leave the Turkish Cypriot people to the mercy of the situation," the foreign ministry said in a statement.

Turkish foreign minister Muztar Soyasal is due in north Cyprus for talks on Wednesday.

The northern assembly voted on Monday to draw up foreign policy, defence and security agreements with Turkey, similar to existing joint military and security deals between Athens and the Greek Cypriot government in southern Cyprus.

Cyprus has been divided since 1974, when Turkish troops occupied the north in reaction to a Greek Cypriot coup in Nicosia backed by the military junta then ruling Greece.

Long-standing efforts by the U.N. to reconcile the two communities have so far proved fruitless. The latest talks stalled in June, although shuttle diplomacy resumed last week.

North Cyprus, declared in 1983 and recognised only by Turkey, was angered by a European Court of Justice ruling on July 5 that banned EU members from buying goods from it.

It also protested against efforts by the Greek Cypriot south, recognised internationally as the Republic of Cyprus, to join the EU.

In Nicosia, Greek Foreign Minister Carolos Papoulias on Tuesday called for measures to force Turkish Cypriot leaders to discuss ways of ending the 20-year-old division of Cyprus.

"The moment has come that all measures should be taken to force the Turkish side to stop its delaying tactics and sincerely cooperate for achieving a solution to the island," he told the Greek-Cypriot Cyprus News Agency.

His comment came after Turkish-Cypriot leaders on Monday announced they will seek closer ties with Ankara, abandoning a long-standing policy to set up a federation with Greek-Cypriots.

But the Turkish-Cypriot move was immediately denounced by the Cyprus government as a bid "to torpedo U.N. efforts" to solve the problem of the divided Mediterranean island.

Turkey invaded the north in 1974 after an extreme right wing coup on the island masterminded by the then-Greek junta in Athens.

Mr. Papoulias, who is on a four-day official visit here, did not specify what measures he was thinking of but said the Cyprus problem was a "top national priority" for his government.

On Monday he held talks with Greek-Cypriot leaders, including Cyprus President Glafos Clerides, aimed at resolving the problem and examining a "common defence doctrine" linking both countries.

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Fiery Kuwait opposition paper vows comeback

By William MacLean
Reuters

KUWAIT — Kuwait's most outspoken newspaper, the opposition Al Talea, has suspended publication to resolve financial problems but its staff pledge it will reappear soon, promising greater vigilance as a pro-democracy watchdog.

"There are those who will be pleased, thinking they are dancing over the dead body of Al Talea," said Sami Al Munayes, publisher of the fiery 30-year-old weekly.

"They will be disappointed, because Al Talea will resume publication very soon — stronger and better," he wrote in an article announcing its temporary closure this month.

The liberal broadsheet, which staffers describe as the only opposition paper in the Gulf, is trying to solve a cash squeeze that has arisen due to lack of advertising revenue and partly because of what it sees as an ineffective ownership structure.

The newspaper campaigns for increased openness and accountability in government and for the exposure of former officials it says stole public funds in the 1980s and during the 1990-91 Iraqi occupation.

While many Kuwaiti newspapers criticise government ministers on some issues, they take care to avoid criticism that might be construed as libellous.

But Al Talea often appears

less hesitant about blasting ministers and officials it feels have abused public trust. It was repeatedly closed down in the decades before Iraq's 1990 invasion for violating press and publications regulations.

It published in magazine format in those years, taking a pan-Arabist line and serving as a mouthpiece for the liberal opposition Kuwait Democratic Forum (KDF) grouping.

While political parties are banned, the government has taken no action against groups like the KDF that acted much as parties in 1992 parliamentary elections and in assembly sessions since.

Al Talea reappeared in January 1993 and now embraces a wider range of opposition views. But it remains the scourge of Islamic political groups, criticising their campaign to require the compulsory adherence of all the emirate's residents to strict Islamic behaviour and norms.

It has also taken the bold step of calling for changes to the way some ministries are allocated among members of the Sabah family, which has ruled the emirate for over 300 years.

"The fingerprints of Al Talea are found all over Kuwaiti democracy," Ahmad Al Deyain, an adviser to the editors, told Reuters.

"In general journalism is a pillar of democracy, along with parliament and political parties, and Al Talea plays an important role in the main political battles."

"We are very clear in criticism the Islamist political parties and MPs and ministers who represent them... personally I am interested in bold news."

It is very clear that Al Talea is the only one of its kind (the Gulf), he said.

Mr. Deyain, former deputy chief editor of the heavyweight daily Al Watan, is KDF assistant secretary general. Mr. Munayes, who owns Talea's copyright licence, is KDF secretary general.

A number of prominent opposition MPs are partners in the printing firm which produces Al Talea, which is currently defending libel suits from an Islamist politician, a former government minister, and a influential businessman and journalist.

Mr. Munayes and editor in chief Ahmad Al Nafisi, both former MPs, were held by the authorities overnight in December after they refused to pay bail during questioning about an allegedly defamatory report on state investments.

They were freed after it was agreed they lodge bail in the form of a non-monetary personal guarantee.

Al Talea's circulation is believed much less than the mainstream newspapers which each sell 20,000 to 30,000 daily.

Prices of unsubsidised goods like sugar, cigarettes, butter and biscuits have started to come down though they remain well above pre-war levels.

But people are complaining they are unable to get the subsidised goods, distributed through the government machinery, blaming middlemen and black marketeers. Bakers blame the shortage

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

readings: Amman 28 per cent. Aqaba 37 per cent.	Civil Defence Department 661111 Civil Defence Emergency 630341 Rescue 192 621111 637777 Fire Brigade 617101 Blood Bank 775121 Highway Police 843402 Traffic Police 896390 Public Security Department 63021 Hotel Complaints 625830 Price Complaints 661176 Water and Sewerage 897467 Complaints 787111 Complaints (directory assistance) 121 Overseas Calls 010230 Central Amman Telephone 623101 Abdullah Telephone Repair 661101 Jordan Television 773111 Radio Jordan 774111 Jordan Electricity 680100 Jordan Electricity Authority 815615 Electric Power Company 636381 RJ Flight Information 08-532200 Queen Alia Int'l. Airport 08-532200	Khalidi Maternity, J. Amn 642418 Al-Khalidi Maternity, J. Amn. 642441/
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Haiti clergy in fear after slaying

PORT-AU-PRINCE (R) — The slaying of a clergyman loyal to ousted President Jean-Bertrand Aristide opened a new chapter of terror among church officials allied with the deposed populist priest.

But Western diplomats and other analysts in the capital saw little indication Monday that Father Jean-Marie Vincent's murder by suspected paramilitary forces would speed prospects of a U.S. invasion to restore him.

Fr. Vincent, a Liberation Theologist who fought for peasant rights, was shot five times outside his order's Port-Au-Prince residence Sunday night by a waiting group of men armed with automatic weapons.

The killing had the hallmarks of Haiti's paramilitary, a collection of forces which indirectly answers to the country's military command, which took control after ousting Mr. Aristide in a bloody 1991 coup, diplomats and Haitian analysts said.

Pro-Aristide church officials who have not gone into hiding braved the public spotlight Monday to condemn the killing, the first of a priest since 1985.

"Since the 1991 coup we

have done nothing but bury bodies," Sister Kresta Occident told reporters. "We call on the de facto authorities, the military and their thugs to return the country to constitutionality."

The murder of what the U.S. embassy called a "martyr for democracy" is the latest in what Western officials and Haitian activists say is a campaign by Haiti's military leaders and its supporters to wipe out any lingering support for Mr. Aristide, now in exile in the United States.

"Probably this killing is the beginning and we can expect that others will follow," said Father Antoine Adrien, one of the few remaining outspoken church allies of Mr. Aristide.

"You cannot replace a Father Vincent," Fr. Adrien told Reuters. "He is dead; Antoine Izemery is dead; Guy Malary is dead — we are losing people very important for us," Fr. Adrien told Reuters, referring to the pro-democracy business leader executed in the middle of a mass Fr. Adrien officiated and the assassinated Haitian justice minister.

Most of the church hierar-

chy in Haiti has aligned itself with the country's military rulers and against the return of Mr. Aristide, a champion of the poor who was expelled from his own Salesian Order accused of exalting class struggle.

Fr. Vincent's body was taken away by police and has not yet been released to allow the church to bury him, Fr. Adrien said. An evening prayer vigil Monday planned at the blood-stained spot where Fr. Vincent fell was postponed for the daylight hours.

The United States Monday denounced the murder of Fr. Vincent, whom it called a "martyr for democracy" and hinted that it had made a U.S.-led invasion of Haiti to restore Mr. Aristide more likely.

In Washington, State Department spokesman Mike McCurry said the U.S. message to those behind this and other assassinations in the troubled Caribbean nation was: "Your crimes only increase our outrage and strengthen our resolve to rid Haiti of your abuses."

He told a news briefing it was "entirely incorrect" to suggest that Haiti invasion

plans had been put on hold because of the current crisis over Cuban refugees trying to reach the United States as is widely believed.

But in Port-Au-Prince, Western diplomats and Haitian analysts said they did not expect Fr. Vincent's murder to help spark what could be an invasion unpopular in the United States.

Meanwhile, two top U.S. officials left for Jamaica and the Dominican Republic Tuesday to discuss Haiti with Caribbean leaders and inspect enforcement of a U.N. trade embargo against Haiti's military government.

The flight by Deputy Secretary of State Strobe Talbott and Deputy Defence Secretary John Deutch came a day after Washington deplored the murder of Fr. Vincent.

Mr. Talbott and Mr. Deutch, the second-ranking officials at their departments, were to attend a meeting of foreign and defence ministers of the Caribbean Community (Caricom) in Kingston to discuss Haiti, then fly to the Dominican Republic.

In the Dominican Republic, they planned to inspect enforcement of a worldwide



Haitian Father Jean-Marie Vincent (left) and Father Jean-Bertrand Aristide (right) preside over mass in Port-Au-Prince in this file photo dated Aug. 4, 1987, prior to Mr. Aristide's election to president. Father Vincent, a politically active supporter of Mr. Aristide, was shot by gunmen near his church (AFP photo)

trade embargo against neighbouring Haiti along the 225-mile (362-km) frontier that divides the two countries on the island of Hispaniola.

The United States has been working for weeks to get troop contributions from Caribbean and Latin American nations to a proposed multinational force to invade Haiti and restore Mr. Aristide if the country's military rulers do not resign.

The Dominican Republic until now has not enforced the embargo and punitive economic measures, but diplomats hope that will change under a new deal signed by U.S. officials and recently reelected Dominican President Joaquín Balaguer.

Mr. Talbott and Mr. Deutch were to meet separately with Mr. Balaguer and political opposition leader José Francisco Peña Gómez

before flying back to Washington late Tuesday night.

More than eighty U.N. observers gathered at strategic points in the Western Dominican Republic last week to monitor enforcement of the embargo of fuel and other items against Haiti. Warships from the United States and several other nations have also been enforcing the embargo at sea.

Conductor Chung locked out of Paris Opera

PARIS (AFP) — South Korean-born conductor Myung-Whun Chung was locked out of the Paris Opera Tuesday in spite of a court ruling that reinstated him in his job as musical director. Mr. Chung, 41, accompanied by lawyer Monique Pelletier and a bailiff, was prevented from entering a rehearsal room by Paris Opera Director Jean-Paul Chazal, who fired Mr. Chung on Aug. 12. At first Mr. Chazal locked Mr. Chung out of the whole building at the Bastille, but Mr. Chung managed to get in. Then Mr. Chazal and the opera's lawyers barred the conductor from the rehearsal room. A Paris court ruled Monday that opera management acted illegally in sacking Mr. Chung, and ordered him reinstated. Opera officials appealed the decision. The court said the management did not have the right to appoint another musical director for the rehearsals or the performances of Verdi's *Simon Boccanegra*, which opens the 1994-1995 season at the Bastille Opera House on Sept. 19. Australian conductor Simone Young has been staging rehearsals of the Verdi opera since Mr. Chung's dismissal earlier this month. Mr. Chung, brother of the violinist Kyung-Wha Chung, was sacked after he refused to renegotiate his contract, which dates from Dec. 22, 1992 and expires in August 2000. Mr. Chung then sued the opera. In a statement, the Paris Opera said that for five months it has been making proposals to change the terms of Chung's contract. "All the proposals were rejected," the statement said. The Gaullist administration of Prime Minister Edouard Balladur had appointed a new management to replace flamboyant Pierre Berge in a cost-cutting exercise. Mr. Berge had sacked Mr. Chung's predecessor Daniel Barenboim five years ago.

Thai teen drug addiction grows at 'alarming' rate

BANGKOK (AFP) — Heroin addiction among Thailand's teenagers is increasing "at an alarming rate" as drug-laced cigarettes spread in high schools and vocational institutions, a police physician said Tuesday. More than 100 new cases of heroin addiction were reported among those aged 15 to 16 at one Bangkok hospital during the past three months, according to Dr. Somyot Deemak of the Thai Surgeon General's Office. Dr. Somyot said doctors attributed the steep increase in addiction to the proliferation of heroin-dipped or heroin-mixed cigarettes in schools. Dr. Somyot, who works at the Bangkok Police Hospital, said the actual number of heroin addicts among Thai youngsters may be larger than figures indicate. Minors who register at hospitals here must do so with their parents' consent, a difficult psychological hurdle for addicts, he said. "All the doctors at our hospital are extremely worried about this," he said.

Race riot mars S. African beauty pageant

CAPE TOWN (R) — A South African student beauty pageant ended in violence when part of the crowd protesting because a black finalist was not crowned queen, the Cape Times newspaper reported Tuesday. The contest at the weekend was abandoned after Bukelwa Mabinda, who is black, was named second princess and members of the crowd began pelting the stage with bottles and cans, apparently because they had wanted her to win. The master of ceremonies was struck on the back by an object and taken for treatment. Ms. Mabinda and the other finalists, Charlotte Bouw and Renee Maarmann, who are of mixed race, were taken back stage to protect them from the rampaging group. Ms. Maarmann, who was widely expected to win first prize of 1,000 rand (\$280) and a study scholarship, said she was terrified when the crowd went wild. "Many people told me it was a racist incident. All I saw was a group of people storming to the stage and I was very scared," she was quoted as saying. Brian O'Connell, an official at the college where the incident occurred, deplored that the issue of racism had been highlighted, because it was a "simplistic response to a complex issue."

Poll: Mandela enjoys rapid rise in popularity

JOHANNESBURG (Agencies) — South African President Nelson Mandela is enjoying a rapid rise in popularity among whites and is more popular than ever among blacks, a Gallup-Markinor poll published Tuesday shows.

Mr. Mandela, who was sworn in as the country's first black president on May 10, scored an average 6.0 out of 10 among whites compared to his 3.5 rating in November. Metropolitan black support for the 76-year-old leader was recorded at an extremely high 9.2 out of 10 while metropolitan coloureds (mixed-race) and Indians rated Mr. Mandela at 6.9 and 7.0 respectively.

The poll was conducted between mid-June and mid-July among 1,000 blacks, 240 coloureds, 120 Indians and 640 whites in metropolitan areas, and a further 320 whites in urban and rural regions.

Deputy President F.W. de Klerk, who was president un-

til April and who began dismantling apartheid when he took over as head of state in 1989, proved more popular than Mr. Mandela among whites, who gave him 7.0 out of 10 in the poll.

Coloureds and Indians rated Mr. de Klerk even higher, at 7.6 and 7.2 respectively, while blacks pegged him at 4.8.

The poll showed that most South Africans believed Mr. Mandela and his government of national unity had been successful in uniting all South Africans into one nation, ending political violence and improving basic health services.

Political scientist Tom Lodge, of Witwatersrand University, attributed Mr. Mandela's increasing popularity among whites to the fact that he was "performing well as a president."

"He doesn't come across as a party leader any more, but as a statesman," Mr. Lodge told AFP.

Germany, Japan lose bid to enter Security Council

UNITED NATIONS (AFP) Germany and Japan have lost their bid to gain full membership of the Security Council by next year because of ongoing disagreements over the proposed broadening of the U.N.'s top decision-making body, Western diplomats said Monday.

A working group set up nine months ago and tasked with drafting a plan for widening the Security Council has failed to come up with a proposal that would gather a consensus among members.

"There was broad agreement that the membership of the Security Council should be enlarged," members of the working group concluded in a report to be discussed by the United Nations General Assembly in two weeks.

"Although the debate was substantive and constructive in clarifying the positions of member-states, more time would be needed" to discuss the size and the status of the members, the report said.

Japan had hoped to gain full entry into a new wider Security Council next year in line with celebrations marking the 50th anniversary of the United Nations but some diplomats say it would be unrealistic to expect any expansion of the Council before the year 2000.

Germany, faced with the prospect of waiting many years, has decided to accept a seat as a non-permanent member of the Council for two years as of Jan. 1.

The limited entry falls short of the permanent members status currently enjoyed by China, Britain, France, Russia and the United States.

"We still have a long way to go," said one diplomat who attended meetings of the working group set up in December 1993.

Discussion on eligibility to the select club has yet to begin but already delegates are exchanging defiant glances with many prepared to wage major battles for a seat.

Non-Aligned members Cuba, Indonesia, India,

Egypt as well as some Latin American countries including Colombia have, turned debate on widening the Council into a broader forum of discussion on the Council's procedures.

These countries hope to make headway in their long-standing criticisms of the Security Council's lack of transparency and the privileged status of its members. Security Council members, fearing demands for radical change are underway, announced a series of measures to improve contacts with other U.N. member states.

Even among Western nations, the issue has been a bone of contention with Italy — insulted over the fact that it was not on the list of possible new permanent members — joining critics in their campaign to reform the Security Council.

Italy has threatened informally to propose that France and Britain be forced to agree to the establishment of a rotating "European seat" in the Security Council that it would share with its neighbours.

Many members are using Germany and Japan's candidacy as a means of exerting pressure on other permanent members but the tactic has failed as these states have no plans to give up their powers.

The five permanent members of the Security Council are also divided on the proposed changes and disagree on the future size of the body and on who would get veto power.

The idea of granting semi-permanent status to new members has been brushed aside and the current trend is to allow renewal of non-permanent status.

The General Assembly meanwhile, was expected to take note of the working group's report and propose that it continue its meetings and submit a new report before the end of the 49th session in September 1995.

Murayama's remorse comforts Asian leaders

SINGAPORE (AFP) — Prime Minister Tomiichi Murayama's tactics of making high-profile apologies for Japan's wartime activities won over new friends on his four-nation Asian tour which ended here Tuesday.

The 70-year-old Socialist leader expressed some kind of remorse in the Philippines, Vietnam and Malaysia and rounded off his trip in Singapore with a promise that Japan would never again pose a military threat to the region.

In return, many of South East Asia's charmed leaders urged him to pursue Japan's claims for a seat on the United Nations Security Council. Mr. Murayama may be unsure about that, but he admitted with satisfaction: "It has been a very good trip."

Mr. Murayama was chided in Malaysia for apologising too much over the war, but Singapore Prime Minister Goh Chok Tong highlighted the new spirit.

"The Singapore people are touched by your gesture of laying a wreath at our civilian war memorial. It shows how our relations have changed for the better," Mr. Murayama was told over dinner by Mr. Goh Monday.

After the resignation of two cabinet members this year for defending Japan's World War II record, the ghosts of the "comfort women" forced to be sex slaves to the Imperial Army, and other atrocities, were a recurrent theme of the tour.

Philippines "comfort women" demanding compensation made life difficult for Mr. Murayama with de-

monstrations in Manila. But Philippines President Fidel Ramos welcomed a plan to create a training centre for women and said it was "up to Japan to determine in what way she can manifest completely her apology and remorse."

Vietnamese leaders, who courted Japanese financial assistance and backing for their return to the international community, said it was time to turn the page.

Only in Kuala Lumpur did Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad surprise Mr. Murayama by saying Tokyo should stop apologising for something that happened 50 years ago and play a more active role in promoting global security.

But a senior Malaysian official explained that Mr. Mahathir was only sending a subtle message. "He is asking Japan for more aid to the region, not mere apologies," the official said.

Before leaving Singapore, Mr. Murayama noted that next year is the 50th anniversary of the end of the Pacific war and said "Japan will firmly maintain an exclusively defence-oriented policy" and would not manufacture or use nuclear arms.

"It has been a fruitful visit. We have achieved our objective of promoting friendship Japan and the countries we visited," Mr. Murayama said in a pre-departure statement.

A Japanese official said the premier wanted to dispel apprehension that frequent changes of government.

Mr. Murayama is the fourth premier in a year — would damage the continuity of Japanese policy.

Philippines mine blast kills 62; 12 missing

MANILA (R) — At least 62 miners were killed and 12 were missing and feared dead after methane gas exploded in an underground tunnel in the southern Philippines in the country's worst coal-mine disaster, officials said Tuesday.

Fourteen were injured while scores of others crumbled unscathed out of the 150-metre-deep tunnel after the Monday evening blast in the state-owned coal mine in Malangas Municipality on

Mindanao Island.

More than 20 hours after the explosion, 62 bodies had been recovered while 12 other miners were still missing, believed trapped and possibly dead below ground, the mine owners said.

Malingas Mayor Cecilio Tura said there was no chance any one of them was still alive.

The five square kilometre mine, owned by a subsidiary of the state-owned Philippine National Oil Company

(PNOC), is the country's biggest underground coal mine, producing 200,000 tonnes a year.

"It is, sorry to say, the worst coal-mine disaster in the Philippines," said Leonardo Ote, an executive with the subsidiary, PNOC Energy Development.

The bodies of some of the dead were found near the mouth of the tunnel, suggesting they were about to reach safety when they collapsed, he said.

No clear winner emerges after election debate by Quebec leaders

MONTREAL (R) — Quebec leader sparring Monday night in a televised debate over whether their French-speaking province should become independent from Canada, but pundits saw no clear winner in the debate.

Liberal Premier Daniel Johnson faced Jacques Parizeau, the leader of the separatist Parti Quebecois, in a 90-minute French-language debate two weeks ahead of a Sept. 12 provincial election.

Mr. Parizeau, who is not personally very popular in the province, was leading in polls ahead of the debate and is widely expected to win the upcoming vote.

Political analysts said Mr. Johnson needed a dramatic win in the debate in order to make a turnaround. He lags in opinion polls by three per cent in overall support, but by 20 percentage points among French-speakers, who make up 82 per cent of the population and dominate two-thirds of the voting districts.

But the highly-structured debate, which did not allow

for much free sparring between the two, was seen as a draw.

"There was no knock-out punch," said political analyst Daniel Latouche. "No one really took control."

Although most of the debate was taken up with provincial issues like jobs, health care and taxes, the issue of the future of Quebec was one of the most hotly-discussed topics of the night.

"What is the leader of the Parti Quebecois leading us into?" asked Mr. Johnson. "What is the future of Quebec?"

Mr. Johnson, who has been accused by Mr. Parizeau of not caring enough about Quebec's "distinctness" because he wants to stay a part of Canada, also made an effort to tell viewers that in the past he has supported recognition of Quebec's distinctive character.

He also attacked Mr. Parizeau's economic policies, calling them "interventionist."

Mr. Parizeau side-stepped a few questions from the panel of three journalists on what might happen to the province if Quebecers do not pass a referendum on sovereignty.

The Parti Quebecois has promised to hold a referendum within eight to 10 months of its victory to see if Quebecers want to split from Canada.

Both leaders filled their answers with numbers and statistics, but neither had really impressed arguments for any issue.

However, Mr. Parizeau seized on a poll released Monday which said although Quebecers were not likely to vote "yes" to separation now or a year from now, they did think the idea was possible and likely.

"It is perfectly obvious that Quebec sovereignty will come about," Mr. Parizeau said. "I believe that it is necessary and I believe that Quebecers increasingly understand that it will come about."

Russians leave behind a poisoned legacy in Germany

POTSDAM, Germany (AFP) — Russian troops who formally pull out of eastern Germany Wednesday leave behind them a poisoned legacy of polluted land and collapsing buildings which will require billions of dollars to clear up.

Soil saturated by engine oil, leaking containers of toxic waste, a lunar landscape of artillery ranges and barracks unfit for further use will become the official property of the German local and federal authorities.

In total some 270,000 hectares (400,000 acres) of land, larger than the area of the Saarland, the fourth smallest of Germany's federal states, were occupied by the former Soviet forces in what was East Germany.

The German Armed Forces are taking over a part of the various facilities for their own purposes, but the remainder is being handed over to the respective states, or to the Federal Finance Ministry to be sold off.

One state, Brandenburg in the heart of Prussia, had almost 10 per cent of its territory occupied by military installations used by some 200,000 Soviet troops, half the garrison based in East Germany at the height of the cold war.

Many of the facilities were taken over from the Third Reich in 1945. Some 92,000 hectares (240,000 acres) of land contain training areas, barracks and military air-

fields which the local authorities have little idea how to turn over to civilian use.

"It is a difficult and expensive task, the land is terribly polluted and many buildings are on the point of collapse," said Roland Vogt, the official charged with dealing with this dubious legacy for the Potsdam-based Brandenburg government.

The cost of cleaning up has been put at 5.5 billion marks (\$3.7 billion) for the land alone, where the Russians have also buried munitions and dumped unwanted material in lakes.

Their abandoned living quarters are the same throughout eastern Germany, rows of buildings with gaping windows and cracked walls. Inside they have been stripped of everything that could be carried back to Russia, including flooring, heating and sanitary installations.

"We need massive federal aid for the work of cleaning up," said Mr. Vogt, who suggested that Bonn set up a special government department to deal with the problem.

The smaller local authorities are also scratching their heads over how to take advantage of their often unwanted inheritance. Fuerstenburg, for instance, 100 kilometres north of Berlin, with just 5,000 inhabitants, will take over sites which housed 30,000 Soviet troops, many of them located in remote forest.

Some housing projects are beginning to emerge. At Altes Lager an investor has bought a number of buildings for a symbolic one mark, but will have to pay all the costs of redevelopment.

There are also plans for industrial sites, green spaces for recreation, or simply abandoning sites for nature to repair. But out of some 50 former air bases, only two or three will become civilian airports, leaving kilometres of concrete runways to be torn up.

Chancellor Helmut Kohl and Russian President Boris Yeltsin will bid a joint farewell Wednesday to the last Russian soldiers leaving the former East Germany.

German politicians in their concern to stay on good terms with Russia, have recently toned down their criticism of the Red Army's role in the former East Germany and now prefer to direct their criticism at the Communist state's former leaders.

But conciliatory as the mood might be, Mr. Kohl, declined to have the Russians take part in a joint departure ceremony with troops of the Western allies. The rejection angered the Russian military command in eastern Germany but Mr. Yeltsin was finally persuaded to accept a separate ceremony.

The departure of Western allied forces will be celebrated on Sept. 8 in the presence of U.S. Vice-President Al Gore, British Prime

Minister John Major and French President Francois Mitterrand.

The reason is that in Germany, the Red Army is remembered mainly for the atrocities and excesses committed by its soldiers as they advanced into Germany towards the end of the war, avenging themselves at Stalin's call for acts committed by Hitler's forces in the occupied Soviet Union.

Soviet troops invaded Germany at the beginning of 1945 after pushing the Nazis back across Russia and Poland. In the former East Germany there are 3,500 military cemeteries containing the remains of 650,000 Soviet soldiers — a lasting reminder of the intensity of the fighting in the dying months of the Third Reich.

After the victory, the Red Army became the instrument of Stalin's strategy of bringing half of Germany into the Soviet orbit and isolating its people from fellow Germans in sectors controlled by French, British and U.S. forces.

The Federal Republic (formerly West Germany) and the rival German Democratic Republic (East Germany) were founded in 1949. The Americans massed their troops along the inter-German border and the Soviet Union did likewise.

It was the Red Army which sustained the repressive former East German regime until former Soviet leader

Mikhail Gorbachev allowed the latter to collapse under popular pressure in 1989 and reunification take place under rule from Bonn.

In June 1953, the Red Army intervened to save the East German regime by crushing a popular revolt which threatened to sweep away the Communist leadership. According to a toll compiled after reunification, nearly 200 people died in the repression, including 40 Soviet soldiers executed for refusing to fire on the demonstrators.

Western forces stationed a few miles away in West Berlin did not budge, indicating for the first time that they would not violate the demarcation lines fixed in 1945 even to save people fighting for democracy.

Nor did the allies move eight years later when East Germany built the infamous Berlin Wall with the backing of Moscow.

When Germany was reunified in 1990, 390,000 Soviet soldiers and 150,000 Soviet civilians were living in East Germany.

To get them to leave within four years, Mr. Kohl agreed to provide Russia with massive financial aid: 12 billion marks (\$7.5 billion at present rates) plus an interest-free three billion mark loan at a cost of one billion marks (\$625 million) to Germany.

Nearly all the money has gone into building homes for Russian soldiers repatriated from Germany.

Handwritten signature: *دولت اسلام*

PARIS (AFP) — A Korean-born conductor, Myung-whun Chung, was locked out of the Paris Opera Tuesday in a dispute over his job as musical director. Mr. Chung, 41, accused by lawyer Monique de la Motte of entering a room by Paris Opera director Jean-Paul Chazotte. At first Mr. Chung was locked out of the building at the Bastille. Then Mr. Chung's opera's lawyers demanded that he be allowed to enter the room. A Paris court ruled Monday that opera management acted illegally in locking Mr. Chung out and he was reinstated. Opera management appealed the decision. The court said the management did not have the right to appoint another conductor for the rehearsal. Simon Boccanegra, which opens the 1994-1995 season on Sept. 19, Australia's Opera House, was scheduled to perform the opera since Chung's dismissal. Chung's dismissal came after a month. Mr. Chung, 41, was sacked after refusing to sign a new contract, which was due Dec. 22, 1992 and ended August 2000. Mr. Chung had sued the opera house for breach of contract. The Paris court said that for five years, as he was making progress, he was not allowed to sign a new contract. "All the provisions were rejected," the court said. The court said that the opera house had appointed a new conductor to replace Chung. The court said that the opera house had appointed a new conductor to replace Chung. The court said that the opera house had appointed a new conductor to replace Chung.

World News



Young Bosnian recruits wear berets on their heads as they undergo basic military training in Sarajevo. After a few months of basic military education, the soldiers will join troops in areas surrounding the Bosnian capital (AFP photo)

Russia differs with West over policy on Serbia

SARAJEVO (R) — Differences emerged Tuesday between Russia and the West over rewarding Serbian-led forces for its break with the UN trade embargo on Bosnia.

Russia's Foreign Minister Andrei Kozyrev was quoted Tuesday as saying Western governments had to show greater willingness to reward Belgrade for its support for the aid that for five years has been making progress.

At the same time U.N. officials voiced alarm over "appalling" conditions in refugee camps in Serbia-held Croatia where thousands of Muslims have fled from the Bihac enclave in Bosnia.

They said refugee children were suffering from diarrhoea and dehydration, and there was a risk of measles epidemics at two camps.

Mr. Kozyrev was quoted by ITAR-TASS news agency as saying Western policy towards Belgrade was hampered by "bureaucratic inertia" and "little flexibility."

"Very great reserve is being shown in the work with our Western partners," Mr. Kozyrev said on his way from Zagreb to Berlin after a brief tour of former Yugoslavia.

The United States, Britain, France and Germany, which drew up the peace plan along with the Russians, want Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic to agree to international monitoring of his blockade against the Bosnian Serbs before they start relaxing a U.N. trade embargo on Belgrade.

But Mr. Kozyrev is pushing for swift action to ease the sanctions against Yugoslavia, which now comprises Serbia and Montenegro.

"Our conviction is that at least some sanctions should be immediately lifted to reward Belgrade for its courageous approach," Mr. Kozyrev said in Zagreb Monday.

Bosnian Serb leaders said a referendum held over the weekend had vindicated their opposition to the peace deal.

As election officials began a second day of counting ballots, the referendum Commission chief estimated a 90 per cent turnout and said 96 per cent had voted "no" to the peace plan.

Final results are expected to be announced at a meeting of the Bosnian Serb Assembly Thursday.

Bosnian Serb leaders called the referendum to back their opposition to the plan, which would divide the former Yugoslav republic roughly in half between Serbs and a federation of their Muslim and Croat foes.

The international community has dismissed the vote as an orchestrated sham and urged the Serbs to reverse their stance.

In the Serb-held Krajina region of Croatia, relief officials faced a growing crisis as thousands of Muslim refugees refused to return to the Bihac enclave in Bosnia.

An official of the U.N. Children's Fund (UNICEF) said the agency had begun vaccinations to try to stave off possible epidemic among children at improvised camps at Batnoga and Turani.

"The situation in the two camps is appalling. Health and sanitation conditions are poor and there is a real risk of outbreaks of epidemic diseases," said Thomas McDermott, UNICEF special representative for former Yugoslavia.

The United Nations wants 30,000 Muslim refugees scattered through Serb-held Croatia to return to the Bihac region which they fled last week after the collapse of Serb-led Muslim forces fighting troops of the Muslim-led Bosnian government.

Some 10,000 refugees were marooned in a no-man's land between rebel Serb forces and the Croatian army after being refused entry to Croatia.

Thousands of the refugees from Bihac marched on a crossing point into Croatia proper Tuesday, demanding entry, a Reuters Television crew reported.

There were no immediate attempts by the banner-waving marchers to break through the crossing, barred by Croatian police with armoured vehicles mounted with water cannon.

The United Nations said Tuesday that Serbs and government forces continued to clash on battlefronts north of Sarajevo. A U.N. military spokesman said 198 explosions were reported at Bratunac, near a contested supply route.

Even as U.N. commanders prepare plans to withdraw from Bosnia if an arms embargo against Muslim forces is lifted, United Nations envoy Yasushi Akashi is urging the world to stay the course with peacekeeping.

"It is important for us not to give up prematurely even though we are in the midst of a civil war which is messy, which is confused and confusing," Mr. Akashi told reporters recently in Zagreb.

"It may not be spectacular short-term results we can deliver, but I am convinced that short of anything better the U.N. will continue to be needed."

Twenty-eight months into the Bosnian war, billions of dollars have been spent on the U.N.'s humanitarian mission and tens of thousands of peacekeepers deployed across the country.

Despite the efforts of international mediators and world powers, Bosnia's brutal ethnic conflict seems far from over.

Bosnian Serbs voted over the weekend to reject the latest peace plan, preferring to keep the 70 per cent of Bosnia they hold even if it means fighting on alone without support from neighbouring Serb-led Yugoslavia, their original sponsors in the war.

Muslim and Croat-backed government forces are growing bolder on the battlefield, thanks to a badly leaking arms embargo that could be lifted altogether as a result of U.S. pressure.



Russian Foreign Minister Andrei Kozyrev (right) is welcomed by Croatian President Franjo Tudjman prior to their talks in Zagreb (AFP photo)

Protestants speak of civil war as IRA truce nears

BELFAST (R) — Angry Protestant hardliners said Tuesday an imminent ceasefire by IRA guerrillas would not bring Northern Ireland peace but full-scale, sectarian civil war.

The outlawed Ulster Freedom Fighters (UFF), a Protestant extremist group, said as the province counted down to an unprecedented truce by the Irish Republican Army (IRA) that it was "a recipe for civil war."

Republican sources said the IRA was expected to announce within coming days an end to its 25-year-old war against British rule in Northern Ireland to bring concessions from the London government on a peace plan for the province.

But the IRA's sworn Protestant enemies, determined not to surrender their British status, said any guerrilla overture to Britain would only provoke a bitter and bloody backlash.

The doom-laden warning from Protestant militants, echoed by Protestant political leader Ian Paisley, followed the latest hint yet that the IRA is on the verge of declaring a tactical halt to its campaign of violence in a bid for political legitimacy.

The IRA's political wing Sinn Fein said Monday it had pressed guerrilla commanders to change tactics in their fight for a united Ireland and expected a "speedy response."

This was a clear signal to set the clocks ticking on a truce announcement, which Republican sources in Ireland say could come as early as Tuesday evening.

The statement by Sinn Fein leader Gerry Adams tacitly confirmed rumours that the IRA is gambling on an open-ended or conditional ceasefire coaxing Britain and Ireland into concessions on a nine-month-old joint formula for peace.

The London-Dublin plan offers Sinn Fein entry into full political talks if its guerrilla allies give up violence for good.

But Republican sources suggest the impending truce may fall short of a full renunciation of violence, allowing "defensive action" against an expected rampage by Protestant killer squads.

Protestants fiercely loyal to British rule poured scorn on the idea that the IRA's gesture might unlock another historic peace settlement to add to the Arab-Israeli reconciliation and the creation of a non-racial South Africa.

The UFF fuelled fears of a return to the sectarian street-fighting of the 1960s and 1970s by vowing to resist any move to merge the six counties of Northern Ireland with the Irish Republic. Britain denies such moves are planned.

"Rather than being, in your words, an historic opportunity for a settlement of the Ulster conflict, it is a recipe for civil war," said the group, whose fighters target the Roman Catholic nationalist community from which the IRA draws support.

Rev. Paisley, the strident voice of unbending Protestant "unionism," accused the British government of stitching a behind-the-scenes deal that promises to grant the IRA's wish for an Ireland united under Dublin's rule.

Echoing the UFF civil war threat, Rev. Paisley said any hint of a "sell-out" to the IRA would put the province in its gravest danger since it was partitioned from the rest of Ireland seven decades ago.

"If he (Adams) comes out with a ceasefire, then the people of Northern Ireland will know they have been sacrificed on the altar of political expediency and that will bring about the most serious situation Ulster has had since 1920," Rev. Paisley said.

Irish unification would turn the Protestants, a majority in Northern Ireland, into a minority in a predominantly Catholic state.

Rev. Paisley warned Northern Ireland was "being propelled into a civil war situation by what the government is doing" and accused Britain of "lying, cheating and deceit" about preliminary contacts with the IRA.

Britain said Tuesday there was no question it would offer concessions to the Irish Republican Army or its political wing Sinn Fein ahead of a rumoured ceasefire by the guerrilla group in Northern Ireland.

Government officials said they had no news about the widely-expected ceasefire.

"There is no question of any changes in that policy and no question of concessions to anyone," a senior official said.

The British officials said the policy of the British and Irish governments over Northern Ireland was "firmly rooted" in a joint peace plan formulated last December which offers Sinn Fein a place at talks on Northern Ireland's political future if the IRA lays down arms permanently.

The United States is considering putting together a major investment package for Northern Ireland if an expected IRA ceasefire is declared and peace returns to the province, the Irish Times reported Tuesday.

Quoting official sources in Washington, it said the Clinton administration was looking at putting together a package of between \$120 and \$200 million if the IRA ceasefire led to an overall peace agreement.

There was no immediate independent confirmation of the report but Irish government officials said such a plan had been under consideration in Washington since moves to end the conflict in Northern Ireland gathered pace last year.

U.N. praises Rwanda repatriation talks, but Hutu cooperation needed

GOMA, Zaire (AP) — Talks between Zaire and Rwanda's Tutsi-led government aimed at persuading more than 1 million Hutu refugees to go home to Rwanda are an encouraging sign, the United Nations said Tuesday.

But a U.N. official said there could be no quick repatriation without cooperation from Rwanda's defeated government led by Hutu extremists.

Government ministers from Zaire and Rwanda's new government were to meet in this Zairean border town Tuesday to build on talks held Monday by junior officials.

Goma is overwhelmed by some 840,000 Rwandans who fled Rwanda's civil war and are housed in miserable refugee camps.

"The very fact that the two governments are talking makes us very encouraged," said Ray Wilkinson of the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees.

He said both sides agreed Monday that repatriation should be voluntary.

That, however, hinges on cooperation from Rwanda's former government, which was overthrown in July and is now waging a campaign of terror in Goma's camps against would-be returnees.

Hutu leaders in Zaire say refugees can only return once the new government agrees to share power and U.N. peacekeepers ensure returnees' safety.

"Eventually, probably a tripartite agreement will be established for the refugees," he said. "However, we're not going to sign the agreement tomorrow."

Filippo Grandi, a top UNHCR official in Goma and special UNHCR envoy, John McCallin, were standing by to join Tuesday's session.

The former government still commands some 20,000 Hutu soldiers and militiamen in the camps. A Hutu advocating repatriation in the camps was killed Sunday, the latest in a series of killings and threats against would-be returnees.

Mr. Wilkinson said the stumbling block was going to be providing safety guarantees for returnees. UNHCR has no armed peacekeepers to protect those who want to return. Even if such a presence were requested and approved, it would probably take months to get it into place.

Despite the violence, hunger and disease in Goma's teeming camps, most Hutu refugees are wary, too, of reprisals by the victorious Rwandan Patriotic Front soldiers, should they return home.

Up to 500,000 mostly Tutsi civilians were massacred by troops of the former government and civilian death squads after former President Juvenal Habyarimana was killed in an April 6 plane crash. Opposition Hutus were also slain.

The U.N. refugee agency warned Tuesday that the arrival of more Rwandan refugees in Zaire's south Kivu region around Bukavu it will be a catastrophe, since there is nowhere left for them to camp.

A spokesman for the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) said space is already lacking around the town and the agency will have to open a new camp in the next few days at Nyantaba-Ninja, 87 kilometres (54 miles) away, more than six hours' ride by truck.

UNHCR spokesman Kris Janowski admitted that the new camp was really too far and will be difficult to supply given the state of the roads. These will not improve when the rainy season begins in mid-September.

The decision to open the new camp for some 80,000 people was taken when the German company which owns the site, Pharmakina, made it available after talks on installing a camp nearer the town collapsed because of disputes over land ownership rights.

Mr. Janowski said only 5,000 people were settled at the Hongo camp, about 12 kilometres from Bukavu, instead of the 80,000 which could have camped there, because landholders were asking for payment, though the site was put at the disposal of the provincial governor.

The UNHCR has no mandate to buy or rent land, but the problem can sometimes be overcome with the assistance of "more flexible" aid agencies, according to UNHCR officials.

Mr. Janowski said that if a new exodus of refugees from Rwanda's Hutu majority began the UNHCR would be in serious trouble.

Rwanda's new government has begun posting civilian officials in the southwestern security zone formerly controlled by French troops who have handed over to a U.N. force, U.N. representatives said Tuesday.

Immigration and customs officials have been sent to points along the southwestern border with Zaire, the new force commander of the U.N. Assistance Mission in Rwanda (UNAMIR) Major General Guy Tuzi said in a news conference.

The government has also opened centres to receive former government troops from the Hutu majority who want to join a new army, U.N. staff said.

The new security forces will gradually move into the zone in small numbers, mainly to guard strategic and sensitive installations like power stations. The zone, covering about a fifth of the country, was set up by French troops in June to stem ethnic bloodletting that began in April.

Carlos spirits message out of jail

PARIS (R) — Guerrilla "Carlos the Jackal" complained in a message spirited out of his prison cell and published in a French newspaper Tuesday that people were trying to morally assassinate him with false media reports.

French authorities immediately launched an investigation to find out how the message, run by the daily L'Informateur under the front-page headline "exclusive — Carlos explains himself," was smuggled out of the La Sante Prison.

The mastermind who shot and bombed his way to notoriety in the 1970s and 1980s said in the message he was still an "internationalist" revolutionary and promised he would not turn informer and betray the unnamed governments and friends who had helped him.

French officials had no immediate reaction to the claims in the statements by the Venezuelan born as Illich Ramirez Sanchez.

Carlos, who was seized in Sudan in mid-August and flown to Paris, complained about his image in media reports, saying he was no alcoholic and had not been undergoing surgery to remove fat from his waist when he was captured.

"Why do people try to make me out as an alcoholic? All this is wrong, I've never been a drunkard..." he said.

"I am one of the founders of the Organisation of Internationalist Revolutionaries, and I am still a member. In my organisation, we shoot traitors. So don't count on me to betray friendly countries and name names," he said.

Even from basement cell number 258187 where he is held in solitary confinement the man who evaded capture for two decades managed to make his voice heard in an orgy of publicity.

Justice Minister Pierre Mehauguier swiftly ordered prison officials to find out how Carlos got his views into print.

"It was either his guards or his lawyers. We have to verify that it wasn't the guards who passed on the statement," a ministry spokesman said. "Carlos saw his lawyers for three hours yesterday. For us, what happened is clear."

She said passing on the message would not have been either a penal offence nor unethical for the lawyers.

"They are free to organise the defence of their client and to decide if they should give a statement to the media," she said.

Lesotho King refuses return of premier

JOHANNESBURG (AFP) — There was "no way" Lesotho King Letsie III was going to restore ousted Prime Minister Ntsu Mokhehle, the head of the mountain kingdom's caretaker government, Haie Phoofole, told AFP Tuesday.

"That step is not even on the cards," Mr. Phoofole, appointed by King Letsie to head a Provisional Council to rule Lesotho for a year, said by telephone from the Lesotho capital Maseru.

The monarch has been given until Thursday by South African President Nelson Mandela and his Zimbabwean and Botswana counterparts Robert Mugabe and Quthobiso Masire to reinstate Mr. Mokhehle's government, which won power 16 months ago in Lesotho's first democratic elections in two decades.

In a pre-dawn radio broadcast on Aug. 17, King Letsie suspended parts of the constitution, dissolved parliament, threw out Mr. Mokhehle and appointed a caretaker government.

Mr. Phoofole said that when the three presidents met King Letsie in Pretoria Thursday they merely asked that "legality and constitutional party democracy" be restored in Lesotho and gave "brotherly advice" that the king "consider" restoring Mr. Mokhehle.

At a press conference after six hours of talks Thursday with King Letsie and Mr. Mokhehle, however, Mr. Mandela, Mr. Mugabe and Mr. Masire made it clear that they would settle for nothing less than the reinstatement of Mr. Mokhehle.

"The presidents made it clear to the king that they cannot condone the measures which were taken which everyone around the world regarded as unconstitutional," Mr. Mugabe told the press conference, "and that it was necessary that the king had a re-look at the situation and takes steps to reverse them."

He said there was no question of the king being given alternatives and that he trusted King Letsie would take the necessary steps in accordance with the wishes of the three presidents.

King Letsie was given until Thursday to report back to the three leaders on progress made.

But Mr. Phoofole said Tuesday a letter sent by the king at the weekend to Mr. Mokhehle suggesting they meet to discuss the formation of a government of national unity had been returned unopened.

Russia makes fresh nuclear arrests as Yeltsin heads for Germany

MOSCOW (AFP) — Several people were arrested in Moscow last week on suspicion of illicit trade in radioactive material, a spokesman for Russia's Federal Counterintelligence Service (FSK) said Tuesday.

The confirmation of the arrests came on the eve of talks in Berlin between Russian President Boris Yeltsin and German Chancellor Helmut Kohl that officials have said would include talks on nuclear security.

FSK spokesman Sergei Vassilyev told AFP the group was arrested Wednesday and said the suspects were "found with radioactive material."

Mr. Vassilyev refused to give any further details on the number or identities of those arrested, the nature of the substance they possessed or any other information about the case.

He denied however a report published Tuesday in the popular daily Moskovskiy that the group was involved in the sale of nuclear weapons until independence in 1975.

Mr. Chan, 55, deputy prime minister in the outgoing coalition, defeated former Speaker Bill Skate, of the small National People's Congress, 69.32, for the premiership. Not all members of the 109-seat parliament voted.

Mr. Chan's People's Progressive Party will form a coalition government with the former main opposition Pangu Party and a handful of smaller parties and independents.

The Papua New Guinea Supreme Court ordered the leadership ballot last week after declaring the 1993 election of former Prime Minister Pias Wingti invalid. Mr. Wingti stood down Tuesday and did not contest the vote.

Mr. Chan challenged for the country's top job Monday, saying a change of government was needed to ensure political stability and sound economic management.

Chronic overspending by government departments is threatening the resource-rich country's economic viability.

Former Finance Minister Masker Jangallo has warned that Papua New Guinea was nearing bankruptcy.

The nation's budget deficit blew out to 270 million kina (one kina equals \$1) in 1993, or 5.5 per cent of gross domestic product, from 35.2 million kina, or 1.2 per cent of GDP, in 1989.

"The long trail of mismanagement and scandal has led us to the events of today," Mr. Chan said.

Since independence, three prime ministers have been toppled by no-confidence motions. Only four prime ministers have come to power through general elections.

New Guinea premier tells country to grow up

PORT MORESBY (R) — Sir Julius Chan was sworn in as Papua New Guinea's eighth prime minister in 19 years Tuesday and promptly told his people to grow up and stop their destabilising political bickering and economic mismanagement.

Mr. Chan, formerly premier from 1980 to 1982, said people were becoming disenchanted with Papua New Guinea's political instability, which had seen almost half its prime ministers gain power through non-confidence votes against their rivals.

"It's time we grew up," Mr. Chan told parliament after it elected him prime minister.

"There is no benign colonial master standing behind our right shoulder anymore, telling us what to do," he said, referring to Australia, which ruled Papua New Guinea as a U.N. trust territory until independence in 1975.

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Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation. Established 1975.

محيط التحرير: مؤسسة الصحافة الأردنية، عمان، الأردن

Chairman of the Board of Directors:
MAHMOUD AL KAYED

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Jordan Press Foundation,
University Road, P.O. Box 6710, Amman, Jordan.

Telephones: 667171/6, 670414-4

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The Jordan Times is published daily except Fridays. Subscription and advertising rates are available from the Jordan Times advertising department.

Rift must stop

THE ESCALATING rift between Algeria and Morocco appears to be getting out of control with the former deciding to break off diplomatic relations. With Algerian authorities now mobilising their country's entire transport network to bring home Algerian citizens currently in Morocco after Rabat slapped a visa requirement on them, Morocco is faced with a similar problem vis-a-vis its own people presently in Algeria.

The current crisis between the two North African Arab countries apparently started when Moroccan police arrested two French nationals of Algerian origin as suspects in the slaying of two Spanish tourists and consequently imposed a visa requirement on all Algerians, including third country nationals of Algerian background. Algeria retaliated by closing its borders with Morocco.

Normally the arrest of nationals of a country by another does not lead to the kind of actions and reactions that both Morocco and Algeria have resorted to. In the first place, whether the detained French-Algerian persons would be found guilty or not after they are duly tried, Morocco has clearly overreacted by imposing visa requirements on all Algerians presently in Morocco, estimated to be about three million. There is no room for guilt by association under international norms and under the worst scenario the affected Algerians are innocent people who should not be arbitrarily deported from the country. Algeria in turn overreacted also by closing its frontier posts with its neighbour Arab country and by so doing further exacerbated the conflict.

But what adds fuel to fire is the reported mistreatment of nationals of the two countries by the police authorities in both states. These developments suggest that something deeper beneath the surface may have been the real cause of the problem between Rabat and Algeria. There is every reason to suspect that political differences between them over the former Spanish colony of Western Sahara is at the heart of the lingering crisis of confidence between them. Algerian President Liamine Zeroual last week was reported to have criticised Moroccan "seizure" of this territory by saying that there was still an "illegally occupied country" in Africa. It is inconceivable that Algeria would deliberately seek to add to its nearly three-year-old civil strife by heating up differences with Morocco but skeptics may want to advance such theories anyway. Whatever the real reasons behind the worsening of relations, however, one thing is clear: What is happening should not have happened and sincere efforts must be exerted by the leaderships of both countries to halt the deterioration in ties. It is unbecoming of two neighbourly and brotherly Arab states to allow their relations to descend to the levels they have reached in the past week. A summit between King Hassan and President Zeroual is therefore urgently called for to contain the growing crisis and, hopefully, solve the problem once and for all.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

WITH THE start of every academic year, our society is faced with the problem of enrollment of young men and women in Jordanian universities, something which is considered a luxury not available to the majority of people, said Taher Al Adwan, a columnist in *Al-Dustour* daily. Students with high grades sometimes find themselves unable to enrol at the state universities to study medicine or engineering at a time when other students with lower grades are being allowed to take their seats at these faculties, claimed the writer. The private universities could be an alternative that would help ease the frustration of the young people but then they are unable to enrol in them due to their high fees, said the writer. To solve the problem, the state-owned universities could accept additional numbers of students each year while the private universities could reduce their fees to a degree that would allow students from limited income families to enrol in them, said the writer. As long as the Jordanian people as a whole are in one way or another contributing towards covering these universities expenses, he said, one expects these institutions to open their doors to the promising students from all sectors.

JORDAN AND Turkey speak the same language and are both in the same boat facing the consequences of the embargo imposed on Iraq over the past four years, said Tareq Masarweh with reference to the just concluded visit to Jordan by Turkish President Suleiman Demirel. Perhaps the press conference His Majesty King Hussein and Mr. Demirel held at the end of the brief visit was much more important than it looked, simply because it reflected the two sides' views concerning the sanctions on Iraq on the one

and the other, according to the columnist in *Al-Sa'i* daily. Iraq is very important for Turkey and Jordan as a neighbour and supporter in times of need, and this was manifested in the two leaders' views which called for an immediate end of the suffering of the Iraqi people and the end of sanctions.

Politics, not religion, fuelling opposition to Cairo conference

From G.H. Jansen

THE EGYPTIAN Islamists, having dubbed the International Conference on Population and Development, starting in Cairo on Sept. 5, the "licentious conference" have shifted the basis of their opposition to it from Islam to morality — that birth control leads to promiscuity. That change was just as well because Islam, over the centuries, has never objected to birth control and, therefore, is not, as alleged by a group of Egyptian lawyers who are trying to stop the conference altogether, contrary to the principles of Islam.

Indeed, if the lawyers had bothered to study Islamic law on the subject of birth control, they would have discovered that all Muslim interpretations of religious law were unanimous in permitting contraception. This is confirmed in a detailed study of the law and practice of contraception in Islam given in "Sex and Society in Islam" by the Cambridge University scholar B. Musallam, which should be required reading for all Islamists, especially those attacking contraception.

Only a statement in the Holy Koran itself prohibiting contraception would give full canonical authority to the Islamist opposition to it. But the Koran says nothing on the subject. The next most authoritative religious source would be the "hadith," the "traditions" of what the Prophet Muhammad said and did.

According to contemporary Muslim scholars few of these can be taken as totally authentic and while they contain several references to the most widely used contraceptive practice in the seventh century, coitus interruptus, they are not very convincing. There is one that is clearly condemnatory: "They asked him about coitus interruptus and the Prophet answered, 'it is hidden infanticide.'" There are several other "hadith" that are equally permissive: "We used to practice coitus interruptus during the Prophet's lifetime. News of this reached him and he did not forbid us" and "the Prophet said, 'practice coitus interruptus with the woman if you so wish, for she will receive what has been predestined for her.'" and "we asked the Prophet about it. He replied, 'you do not have to

hesitate, for God has predestined what is to be created until Judgement Day.'" The mere fact that the Prophet's companions could freely discuss this very intimate subject with him means that birth control was an accepted fact at that time.

The great Islamic jurists like Al Ghazali, in the 11th century, and Ibn Taimiya in the 14th century accepted the fact of contraception and provided reasons for the practice. Al Ghazali favoured the economic reason: A large family could tempt men into illegal transactions to meet their increased responsibilities and, besides, "material well-being is an aid to religion."

Contraception was accepted by all four of the classical legal schools of Sunni jurisprudence and by the Shites as well. The Hanbalis, the strictest of these schools, went so far as to say that coitus interruptus was mandatory in enemy territory so that Muslim children would not be born into slavery.

Birth control was commonly practised by both men and women in the classical age of Islam. Both chemical and mechanical

means were used and in the standard texts of Arabic medicine references to female contraceptives outnumber those for men by four to one. This is true in the ninth century text entitled, "Hawi," of the great Islamic medical scientist Razi, known to Europe as Rhazes, where of 30 prescriptions for contraceptives 31 were for women, and in the Canon of the even more famous Ibn Sina, or Avicenna, of the 10th century, where of the 20 contraception prescriptions given, 10 were for women. Razes and Avicenna even accepted abortion as necessary in certain cases. Modern day medical scientists consulted about these remedies stated that about 10 per cent of the chemical means and almost all of the mechanical methods were effective and, indeed, used the same principles as contemporary means.

The Islamists have used the authority of Al Azhar University, the most prestigious Islamic institution, to buttress their case. Under the compulsion of the militants to follow their policy line, the university has in the past few years gone against the Egyptian government on certain key

issues, including that of contraception. Thus, while the government is one of the main sponsors of the Cairo conference and has in place a birth control programme, Al Azhar opposes both. Although Al Azhar is a governmental institution and its head, Sheikh Al Azhar, is supposed to say what he is told to say, this is not the case.

In the time of President Gamal Abdul Nasser, who strongly backed contraception to promote the economic well-being of Egypt's exploding population, Sheikh Al Azhar issued a formal fatwa stating that Islam did not disapprove of contraception (he could hardly have said anything else in face of the overwhelming historical evidence). But Nasser's successor, the conservative President Anwar Sadat, permitted Sheikh Al Azhar to issue another fatwa flatly contradicting the earlier one. Unfortunately for Al Azhar it is caught between on this matter because during the time of Nasser an institute for the propagation of family planning was established in Al Azhar itself and is still active. It is labelled "a nest of corrup-

tion" by opponents. The Islamists' objection to birth control is political rather than religious. It springs from the militants' deep-rooted suspicions of Western intentions. These suspicions were born during the struggle for liberation from Western colonialism and continue until the present day because these countries largely remain under Western domination. Accordingly, birth control is seen by them as a deep-laid genocidal plot against Muslims to weaken them by reducing their numbers. These genocidal suspicions are widespread in the Indian Muslim community. Since the world population of Muslims is almost one billion and increasing rapidly, these fears are imaginary and groundless. The Islamists conveniently ignore the fact that the two largest Muslim countries, Indonesia and Bangladesh, both of them devoutly Islamic, have accepted and successfully implemented birth control programmes for economic reasons. And these programmes have not weakened these countries but enabled them to improve the economic situation of their people.

Clinton Cuba policy pleases conservatives

By Peter Bate
Reuters

WASHINGTON — U.S. President Bill Clinton's hardball tactics against Cuba's Communist regime may dismay his liberal supporters but they are winning kudos from some of his fiercest conservative critics. Last week, the United States announced measures to back up its new policy of turning back Cuban "boat-people" refugees by restricting cash remittances to Cuba, cutting back charter flights to the island and stepping up propaganda broadcasts directed against President Fidel Castro.

Mr. Clinton's chief of staff, Leon Panetta, said the United States might even consider imposing a blockade against Cuba, although the White House amended that later to say a blockade is an option but is currently "not a part of our plan."

"This was a good first step in the right direction," Lawrence of Rita of the Heritage Foundation, a conservative think-tank, said of the measures announced.

"I share the administration's assumption that Castro's regime is coming to an end," Mr. di Rita told Reuters.

Senator Connie Mack, a Republican from the state of Florida, where most Cuban exiles reside, also said Mr. Clinton had taken the right course.

"The administration's announcement on isolating Castro will send a strong message to the Cuban people that we are with them in their struggle for freedom," Mr. Mack said.

Mr. Clinton's get-tough measures included ending a 28-year policy of welcoming to the United States virtually every Cuban who sought political asylum.

To stem the tide of boat people now fleeing Cuba, Mr. Clinton announced Friday the coast guard would intercept refugees and send them to the U.S. naval base at Guantanamo, Cuba.

He said Mr. Castro could not dictate U.S. immigration policy.

Removing the welcome mat, however, has so far failed to dissuade thousands of Cubans from trying to cross a dangerous 145-km strait to Florida on rickety rafts.

A State Department official, who asked not to be named, said the new measures could take more time to work.

"Our experience in the case of Haitian boat people suggests that restrictions take a while to work," he



said. While conservatives and Cuban expatriates had long hoped Mr. Clinton would use the United States' might to strong-arm Castro into reforming his 35-year-old regime, the more liberal analysts still expect reform to come through dialogue. "The administration still

needs to map out a strategy to deal with Cuba in which all parties involved will have to participate," said former U.S. official Bernard Aronson.

Mr. Aronson, a former assistant secretary for inter-American affairs in the Bush and Clinton administrations, said some of the

decisions regarding refugees could lead to more trouble.

"The administration is acting on the assumption that they will prevent people from leaving Cuba. But if it doesn't, we'll have a substantial refugee problem," he told Reuters.

Larry Birns, head of the liberal council on hemis-

pheric affairs, said Mr. Clinton's moves will only increase the exodus.

"The root cause of this problem is economic, not political," Mr. Birns said. "The Clinton administration has once again proven its unerring instinct to do the wrong thing."

Mr. Birns argued that Mr. Castro was finally doing what every U.S. administration had pressured him to do for the past three decades — to let his people go.

"This is another example of double-standard diplomacy," Mr. Birns said. "China, which has a far worse record on human rights abuses, gets Most-Favoured-Nation status while Cuba has been under an embargo for 32 years."

The State Department official acknowledged that the United States has acted differently when dealing with other Communist regimes but argued that Cuba's case was singular.

"We want to see real political and economic reforms in Cuba, not mere statements. Castro has made changes in the past but he's always backedtracked on them," said the official.

"We're not saying that he has to be on the next boat out, but we want to see real reform before we consider adjusting our policies."

France and Algeria: When the status quo is no longer supportable

By William Pfaff

PARIS — The United States has Sudan on its list of outlaw states, saying that it sponsors Islamic fundamentalist terrorism. France finds that a logical reason for getting on better terms with Sudan. Who better to talk with about the problem of terrorism than those in a position, if not to call it off, at least to damp it down?

A number of large conclusions have been drawn from Sudan's handing over of Carlos the terrorist to French justice. The principal significance, however, is what it reveals — or, better, confirms — about French foreign policy.

One of the two major preoccupations of French policy today is Islamic fundamentalism. (The other is France's relationship with Germany, in the context of Europe's development). Algeria, which until 1962 was a *département* of France itself, not a colony, retains a special relationship with France in terms of the legal status of Algerians in France and their right to travel between the countries.

France also has considerable investment in Algerian economy, and until now has retained a significant influence in Algerian education and cultural life. All of this is jeopardised

by the attempt of extreme Islamists to drive all foreigners and foreign influences out of Algeria.

The French also fear that a fundamentalist victory would inspire not only much of the French-speaking intellectual and middle classes to look for refuge in France, but also thousands of ordinary Algerians who do not want to live under a fundamentalist government.

The policy of Paris therefore is a double one. France formally supports the present military-backed "transitional" Algerian government's harsh campaign against fundamentalist militants. (The Fundamentalist Islamic Salvation Front won the first round of national elections in 1991; the government conceded the second round, and there has been mounting violence ever since).

France's Interior Minister, Charles Pasqua, recently criticised Germany and the United States because fundamentalist militants are allowed to function there and publicise their cause. His police have been rounding up and interning Algerians in France thought to be linked to fundamentalist militancy.

However, the French are also reinsuring. There have been complicated and ambiguous transactions

conducted in obscurity between France and Sudan, some of them allegedly facilitating the Sudanese government's war against rebels in the south.

France's intention is to gain Sudan's help in dealing with the Algerian fundamentalists. Not in communicating or negotiating with them — that could be done in a Paris restaurant — but in influencing them.

The supposed theoretician of Sudan's military government is a Paris- and London-trained Muslim intellectual and academic, Hassan Tourabi, now dean of the Khartoum University Law School, formerly a high government official. He is accused by many in the West, as well as by the Algerian and some other secular Arab governments, of being an ideologist of terrorism.

However, he is himself quoted as criticising the Iranian revolution for its "lack of maturity and of values." He says the fundamentalist government of Saudi Arabia is merely a family dictatorship, where, among its other faults, "the situation of women is very bad." His own country, he says, is trying "an experiment which has only begun," but which is meant to avoid the excesses or errors of Iran and Saudi Arabia.

The French believe that he is at least a man the West

can talk with, while acknowledging (as a profile of him by the French journalist Gilles Millet observes) that he speaks "a double language," simultaneously lending support to the demands of the most radical fundamentalists abroad and "affirming to the West that he is capable of controlling them."

It is a characteristic French policy, subtle and realistic in French eyes, duplicitous or immoral to others. But it is a coherent policy, one consistent with what always has been France's policy in postcolonial Africa.

The French position is conservative, in the sense described by the 19th century American writer Ambrose Bierce. He said the conservative "is enamoured of existing evils, as distinguished from the liberal, who wishes to replace them with others."

The French have always attempted to maintain stability and order (and peace) in their African zone of influence by supporting the powers in place, so long as those established powers did not become totally repellent. When that happens, Paris tries discreetly, usually but not always with success, to facilitate their replacement.

The Los Angeles Times

LETTERS

The AIDS scenario: In perspective

To the Editor:

I HAVE read with a great deal of interest the article entitled "Young medical student brings home update on AIDS" (*Jordan Times*, Aug. 23), and the subsequent commentary letter on this article which appeared in the *Jordan Times*, Aug. 27.

Although I would subscribe to the argument presented by the commentator in terms of the serious measures that need to be taken by governments to combat the spread of AIDS, I would support the notion that this can only be done through, first and foremost, raising public awareness of this epidemic.

In order for this to be done in as rational and as objective a manner as possible, however, an objective appraisal needs to be undertaken that would tell where we stand as far as this global problem is concerned. As of June 1993, a total of 718,894 cases of AIDS worldwide have been reported by the World Health Organisation (WHO). WHO experts acknowledge that this figure represents only a fraction of the actual number which they put at a little over 2,500,000 AIDS cases in adults and children, since the beginning of the epidemic up to mid-1993.

Interestingly enough, however, only 1,799 cases of AIDS were reported in the Eastern Mediterranean Region (WHO classification) out of the world total of 718,894.

These figures, it is fair to say, put the AIDS problem in this country and the region in the appropriate perspective, and should guide our decision-makers into adopting sound and reasonable AIDS combating policies that ensure this situation does not change.

Mouneef Rafa' Obeld,
Amman.

The *Jordan Times* welcomes letters and contributions from its readers on any subject they wish to tackle. Letters intended for publication, however, should contain the writer's full name and preferably address as well. Names can be withheld only upon request and under special circumstances. Letters are subject to editing. The newspaper is not responsible for the return of unused manuscripts.

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tin" by opponents. The Islamicists' objection to birth control is not rather than religious springs from the more deep-rooted suspicion of Western intentions. The suspicions were borne of the struggle of Muslims from countries for liberation and continue until the present day because of the under Western domination. Accordingly, birth control is seen by them as a deliberate genocidal plot to reduce their numbers. These genocidal suspicions are widespread in the Muslim community. Since the world population of Muslims is almost 1.5 billion and increasing rapidly, these fears are understandable. The Islamicists conveniently ignore the fact that the two largest Muslim countries, India and Bangladesh, have accepted and successfully implemented economic programmes. These programmes have weakened these countries but enabled them to improve the economic situation of their people.

heric affairs, said Clinton's moves will increase the exodus. "The root cause of the problem is economic, political," Mr. Birns said. The Clinton administration has once again proved its unerring instinct to be wrong thing. Mr. Birns argued that Castro was pushing him to do for the free world — to let people go. "This is another double-standard," Mr. Birns said. He has a record on human rights abuses, gets the United Nations embargo for 32 years. The State Department acknowledged the United States has not recently when dealing with other Communist regimes but argued that Cuba was singular. We want to see political and economic reforms in Cuba, not mere promises. The changes in the past have always been backward. We're not saying there to be on the next but we want to see reform before we consider ending our policies.

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of interest the arrangements home update and the subsequent which appeared in the... argument presented serious measures to combat the spread of this can only be that this can only be... as a rational and as... however, an objective it would tell where we is concerned. 1,894 cases of AIDS in the World Health Organization's latest survey. The actual number of AIDS cases in adults and the epidemic up... y 1,700 cases of AIDS in the Mediterranean Region, a total of 718,894. The AIDS problem is a global one. It is a disease that is spreading rapidly and under special... The newspaper... unused manuscript.

A SURVEY of mayors from every continent shows that unemployment constitutes the number one urban problem in cities around the world, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) says.

The second most serious problem urban residents face is inadequate housing, the survey of some 135 mayors said.

The two least pressing problems of 12 listed in the survey were discrimination and insufficient civil society participation — although cities as diverse as Beijing, China and Amman, did identify water problems as their prime concern. Lack of funds to meet urban needs was not listed in the survey, although some mayors volunteered that as their primary problem.

Within the next few years, more than half of the world's population for the first time in history will be living in cities and towns rather than in rural areas, adding urgency to the search for solutions to urban problems," says James Gustave Speth, UNDP administrator.

"Already, 60 per cent of the gross domestic product (GDP) of the average country is generated in cities."

The 12 categories of problems listed in the UNDP survey, and the number of mayors who identified them as "most severe," were as follows: (They were permitted more than one choice): Unemployment — 63, inadequate housing — 43, insufficient solid waste management — 38, violence/crime/personal insecurity — 36, poverty — 34, inadequate sanitation/sewage — 33, air pollution — 32, inadequate transportation — 29, inadequate water supply — 24, inadequate social services (health, education) — 22, insufficient civil society participation — 22, discrimination (ethnic, women, poor) — 14.

The conclusions given by the mayors were discussed at the International Colloquium of Mayors, which was held at the United Nations in New York on Aug. 18-19.

Wally N'Dow, who heads the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) and is the secretary general of the U.N. Conference on Human Settlements, which will be held in Istanbul, in June, 1996, calls the problem confronting all cities today among the most urgent now facing humanity. "The word 'crisis' has been overused," he emphasises, "but no other word will do to describe the dilemma of our cities."

"I cannot stress too strongly," he adds, "that this crisis is of truly global proportions. Not one of us is untouched by the repercussions of unemployment, homelessness, crime, drugs in school and on the streets, waterborne diseases, old plagues such as tuberculosis and new ones such as AIDS, pollution, gridlocked traffic and crumbling infrastructure. These affect everyone, in urban as well as rural areas, and it is urgent and vital that all countries — industrialised and developing alike — cooperate to overcome them together."

The results of the survey of mayors will form part of the UNDP contribution to the U.N. Conference on



URBAN NIGHTMARES: Unemployment is a problem to which most major cities in the world have failed to find appropriate solutions (File photo)

Urban problems alike worldwide

Unemployment, inadequate housing are top concerns

Human Settlements, which will focus on the problems caused by the global urban explosion, as well as to the World Summit for Social Development, to be held in Copenhagen, Denmark, in March of next year.

"We feel that by asking mayors around the world to identify their main concerns, UNDP could illustrate that urban problems are more than just localised ones, but rather part of broad global patterns," Mr. Speth says. "By bringing the mayors together at the colloquium, local solutions to local problems can be shared globally and organisations like UNDP can see what works best in which locations."

Almost half of the mayors from both developing and developed countries who answered the survey called unemployment a severe or very severe problem.

For example, Hans Klintbom, mayor of Visby, located on the Swedish island of Gotland, said that almost 40 per cent of young people between the ages of 18-24 are without "real work" at this moment.

Ad J. E. Havermans, of The Hague, Netherlands, said "we have 10,000 people unemployed now, a large percentage of whom are migrants. By the year 2000, unemployment is expected to increase to 50,000

people in the city."

Boston is one American city in which the mayor identified unemployment as the prime concern — as did mayors from cities in Europe, Africa, Asia and Latin America, but Boston's next two most pressing problems are probably more American — high school dropouts and a lack of day care.

Unemployment leads to other serious problems, many of the mayors said. For example, Patrus Anais of Belo Horizonte, Brazil, says "poor families without jobs or with low salaries cause terrible social problems. Their children get involved with drugs, prostitution and crime."

Constantin Simirad, mayor of the Romanian city of Iasi, which has 390,000 inhabitants, agrees, saying, "unemployment reaches 50 per cent of the active work force and causes great social problems and all of the undesirable aspects of life."

Western Europe, Latin America and North America; poverty drew more severe rankings in Africa and Latin America than elsewhere.

The survey also illustrates how cities in the same regions often have similar concerns, along with some unique ones.

North America

In Toronto, unemployment and poverty are considered jointly to be the most vexing problem, with racism number two and violence number three.

"The United Nations has deemed metropolitan Toronto the 'most multicultural city in the world' and it is well-known as a safe and livable metropolis," said the office of the mayor. "However, the current recession, together with the downloading of responsibility for services from the national (Federal) to the municipal level, has resulted in extreme stress on municipal and community-based social supports."

This in turn threatens the atmosphere of mutual tolerance and respect and escalates racism, violence and a host of related social problems." The Toronto mayor's office added.

In Montreal, the most serious problems were given as poverty, unem-

ployment and violence/crime/personal insecurity. In Newark, New Jersey, the top three concerns are crime, jobs and housing.

Asia, Arab states

The mayor of Beijing identified inadequate housing, inadequate water supply and air pollution as the three most severe problems in the capital of the world's most populous nation.

"At present, shortage of water supply is the most outstanding problem in the city," said the Beijing mayor. "The main cause is limited water resources. The government is undertaking a major engineering project to bring water from the south."

Residents of Amman, also see inadequate water as their most severe problem. "The lack of water is due to a lack of resources and damaged or deteriorated pipes, treatment plants, etc. The Water Ministry is doing its best to solve this problem," the mayor's office said.

The mayor of Surakarta, Indonesia, did not list any single problem as "most severe," but classified air pollution, unemployment and poverty on the list of problems. He also cited "overflow migration of rural populations; unauthorised street vendors; and the people's indifference in

sustaining a clean and healthy environment."

Latin America

Mexico City, reflecting its position as one of the world's megacities with more than 15 million inhabitants, identified seven different problems as "most severe": air pollution, inadequate water supply, violence and crime, inadequate social services, poverty, unemployment and inadequate transportation.

In Rio de Janeiro, violence and personal insecurity was identified in the survey as the top concern of the 5.6 million residents among the 12 problems listed. In Santiago, Chile, Mayor Jaime Ravinet named pollution as the city's biggest concern. Mr. Ravinet, classified five other problems as next in severity — inadequate housing, inadequate sanitation, violence and crime, poverty and inadequate transportation.

Personal insecurity and violence are prime concerns in many other Latin American cities. In the Colombian city of Medellin, for example, the mayor listed violence and crime as his city's most pressing problem, with the quality of education as second and inadequate housing as third.

Western Europe

Many cities have their

own unique problems, of course. In Berlin, the mayor, Christine Bergmann, says that levelling living standards of the former eastern and western sectors of the city has been the number one issue since the fall of the Berlin Wall in 1989.

"Bus drivers who live in the former eastern part of the city, for example, earn only 80 per cent of what a driver of the same bus, who lives in the western part, gets," say Mayor Bergmann.

But she second most pressing problem in Berlin is unemployment, which was also the case in Munich, where inadequate housing was listed as the number one concern.

In both the British city of Leeds and the Spanish city of Bilbao, unemployment is also the main area of concern. Unemployment is the main problem in Helsinki, Finland as well, where it has hit 18 per cent. Youth unemployment and long-term unemployment are growing problems in Helsinki, which the city government fears will lead to "a permanent marginalisation of our young people."

Central and Eastern Europe

Unemployment is a major problem throughout this

region, which is still in the midst of its historic transition from state-controlled to market-oriented economies.

The mayor of the Slovenian town of Maribor, after saying that unemployment was his major problem, included a joke in his reply to the survey to illustrate the point:

"Two friends meet. The first says, 'I have a job, but I don't work!' The second says, 'I work all day, but I don't have a job!'"

In the Lithuanian town of Siauliai, 7,000 people are unemployed out of the 18,000 people of working age.

In Kaunas, a city of 420,000 in Lithuania, environmental pollution is considered the most urgent problem, with unemployment second. Kaunas, one of the largest industrial complexes in the Baltic states, is located at the confluence of the two biggest Lithuanian rivers, but the city still has no water treatment facilities and sends all of its polluted water into the Baltic Sea.

In Prague, the capital of the Czech Republic, violence and crime, along with air pollution, are the top problems.

Africa

Fred Yiga, mayor Kampala, the capital of Uganda, said that unemployment and air pollution were the city's two most severe problems. Four other problems the mayor identified as severe were inadequate housing, inadequate sewerage, poverty and inadequate social services.

"Poverty and unemployment, and poor or inadequate health and education services, are especially prevalent among the city's disadvantaged," said the mayor of Kampala, a city of 900,000. "Stimulating agriculture and the informal sector" were cited as the means for changing that.

In Dakar, Senegal, Mayor Mamadou Diop said that insufficient solid waste management was the city's most persistent problem.

The mayor of the small city of Masvingo (52,000 inhabitants) in Zimbabwe identified inadequate housing, poverty and unemployment and inadequate social services as his city's most pressing concerns.

In Mauritius, the Black River District Council/Bambous identified "poverty, alcohol abuse and lack of education as the three main issues affecting social and economic development" of the area's 46,000 residents.

Rabat, lists as its second most severe problem one that would be seen in few, if any, U.S. cities — deterioration of the old city.

Assisting UNDP and Habitat officials in undertaking the survey and organising the colloquium were the International Union of Local Authorities, the United Nations Organisation, the Summit of the World's Major Cities and Metropolises.

"The survey has shown us that the severe problems that hurt cities everywhere require concerted action, not only by mayors, but by nations and international organisations like UNDP," says UNDP administrator Mr. Speth. "This will enable us to help communities to help themselves."

An army in poor shape

By Christian Burckhardt
Reuters

MOSCOW — The Moscow press has already dubbed it "the year of the great retreat."

But 1994, when Russian troops leave Germany and the Baltics after half a century defending the Soviet empire, is also the year of the vanishing soldier.

In a malaise reaching to the core of Russia's armed forces, key positions are left unfilled, recruits fail to turn up for duty and only a few thousand pilots are ready for action.

Plans for an army of 2.2 million are unfilled. "The actual figure is much lower. I think it is around 1.5 or 1.6 million," said Vladimir Nikaronov, spokesman for the Russian armed forces, confirming estimates from Western military experts.

The shrinking army — the number of military men already matches targets

outlined by President Boris Yeltsin for the end of 1995 — comes despite the withdrawal of some 600,000 soldiers from Eastern Europe since the iron curtain fell.

The army newspaper Krasnaya Zvezda described the withdrawal as a huge achievement. "Military troop movements on this scale in times of peace are unprecedented," it said.

The last Russian soldiers leave Germany on Wednesday which is also date when the final units must be gone from the Baltic states of Latvia and Estonia.

The Soviet Union annexed the two states in 1940 and troops have been based there since. Russian soldiers left Lithuania, the third Baltic state, just over a year ago.

"On August 31, Russia's half-century 'occupation' of Eastern Europe comes to an end," the popular Moscow Komsomolsky newspaper said in a front-page article last week.

"For the last time the

Russian soldier will march solemnly across his native parade ground somewhere in Germany, Estonia or Latvia, countries which have become home to them over the last 50 years."

The new Russian army is just over a third the size of the Red Army of early Soviet days. The Soviet Union had 4.25 million men under arms before it started cutting the army back in 1988.

Even in May 1992, the month the Russian army formally came into existence, there were 2.8 million troops.

Western military attaches said the new, leaner Russian army faced many problems, including corruption, poor discipline and draft-dodging.

Many units were little more than "Potemkin divisions", which appeared on paper but had nothing to back them up.

The Potemkin villages of imperial Russia were — at least as the tale is told —

built in the 18th century to impress Catherine the Great on trips through the country. In fact they were nothing but facades or empty shells.

"Russia is meeting its international promises on troop reduction, if only because the army cannot get hold of enough men," said one Western diplomat.

The defence ministry admits that only 80 per cent of potential conscripts ever make it to the army's recruiting stations and 30 per cent of them fail fitness tests.

"Conscription is in a catastrophic state," General Staff Officer Anatoly Kvasnin told a recent parliamentary hearing.

The diplomat said a shortage of conscripts and regular soldiers had resulted in huge gaps in Russia's military structure.

"On paper the air force has 12,000 pilots, but less than 4,000 of them are really ready for action," he said.

By Andrew Hill
Reuters

Northern Ireland conflict at 25-year crossroads

DUBLIN — The Northern Ireland conflict is approaching a crossroads as the Irish Republican Army (IRA) prepares to offer Britain something that 18,000 troops, 25 years of guerrilla war and 3,000 lives have failed to win — a lasting ceasefire.

The IRA, trying to capitalise on what all concerned say is the best chance of peace for years, is expected to declare an open-ended truce some time next month in the hope of winning better terms from a peace proposal made by Britain and Ireland.

Whether London or Dublin accept or reject the gesture, such a truce would launch one of the world's most intractable conflicts into unknown territory and would give the formidable guerrilla group an unofficial seat at the negotiating table.

Sources close to the Irish Republican Army say a decision is imminent but the exact timing is unclear. A ceasefire will put the onus on Britain to be more

flexible towards guerrillas whose sole reason for existence is to attack British sovereignty over a province of around 1.5 million people living behind a 70-year-old enforced border.

It will also raise the hackles of a 60 per cent Protestant majority in Northern Ireland, whose contempt for the British government is matched only by the fervour of their allegiance to the United Kingdom and its monarchy.

As entrenched in their Britishness as white South Africans were in their apartheid, Protestants already fear that an end to a war that meant they lived in a permanent state of siege could spell the end to 300-year ties with Britain.

Their own military "pro-

tectors," shadowy gunmen who kill Catholics to terrorise the community from which the IRA draws support, say they will match the IRA ceasefire with one of their own but will never surrender their British status.

Sources close to the so-called loyalist paramilitaries say that they would be loath to be cast as the aggressors if the IRA silenced its AK-47s, but that they could not stand idly by and watch their foes seize the political advantage.

The IRA ceasefire will fall short of the complete halt to violence which the London and Dublin governments say is the only way the guerrillas will ever be officially recognised as a

legitimate political force.

But it will throw down the gauntlet to the British government and its Irish ally to push ahead with a peace blueprint, deadlocked for almost nine months, despite loud cries of "sell-out" by the province's entrenched Protestant majority.

The IRA's political mouthpiece, Sinn Fein, will be able to trumpet that it alone has brought an effective peace and argue it does not matter whether it is for good or not — it is real.

After years in the political shadows, Sinn Fein and its leader Gerry Adams will move firmly into the limelight, playing the peace-maker role they have tried to carve for themselves over the past five years.

It will, Republican sources say, embolden Mr. Adams to demand that Britain make immediate concessions such as freeing some of the 400 prisoners currently being held for security offences in Britain and Northern Ireland.

This will be a short-term demand to show hard-line Republicans that the ceasefire is a worthwhile gamble.

Investment and management of human resources are of critical importance—UNCTAD

GENEVA, Switzerland (AFP) — A World Investment Report issued by UNCTAD concludes that investment and management of human resources are of "critical importance" to governments and transnational corporations (TNCs).

The report notes that "unprecedented" global competition has brought reconsideration of sources of competitive advantages, and "undoubtedly, the quality of human resources is at the centre of most competitive advantages, as created assets... increasingly play a key role in advancing economic development."

But the distinctive capabilities of TNCs derive to a great extent from their ability to recruit, train and motivate creative individuals. "Investment in, and the effective use and management of, human resources are, therefore, of critical — perhaps of the most critical — importance

for both governments and TNCs in today's world."

This means that "upgrading of human resources should occupy a central place in the policies of governments intent on promoting economic development. And any such policy will automatically, in principle, make a country more attractive to foreign investors."

The report also comments that "Perhaps the greatest potential for human resource development lies in closer cooperative relationships between TNCs, trade unions and governments in the identification of skill shortages, training priorities and appropriate policy initiatives."

The World Investment Report 1994 by the Division on Transnational Corporations and Investments of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) notes that "today, the response to unemployment must take place against the background of a more integrated world economy, and one in which TNCs (transnational corporations) are, inevitably, among the more important vehicles through which any chosen agenda for economic stability and prosperity takes effect."

Foreign investment is naturally among TNCs' leading activities, and foreign direct investment (FDI) flows began recovering in 1993, reaching \$195 billion after a two-year decline from \$232 billion in 1990 to only \$171 billion in 1992.

"The decline of world FDI outflows during 1991 and 1992 consisted primarily of reduced outflows from Japan and, to a lesser extent, from some western European countries, mainly to the United States," the report says.

FDI "outflows from Germany and Japan have not yet started to recover, but they stopped decreasing."

Task force calls for Asia free-trade zone

WASHINGTON (AFP) — A task force called Monday for establishing a free-trade zone joining the United States, Japan, China and other Pacific Rim countries by 2020.

A group of business experts and former government officials from 17 countries in the region issued the recommendation in their proposed agenda for the Nov. 15 Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation forum (APEC) in Indonesia.

President Bill Clinton hosted last year's meeting in Seattle, Washington, and called for a solution to the huge U.S. deficits with China and Japan. Washington has threatened to impose sanctions on the two countries unless trade barriers are dropped.

The report by the blue-ribbon task force, Eminent Persons Group, called for leaders to "commit the region to achieve free trade in all goods, services, capital and investment by the 2020 with implementation to begin by 2000."

The group recommended that rich nations in the region knock down all trade barriers by as early as 2000 but gave newly industrialised countries 15 years and countries with per capita incomes below \$1,000 — such as China and Indonesia — the full 20 years.

Fred Bergsten, chairman of the group, is to present the findings in Jakarta Wednesday to Indonesian President Suharto. Mr. Suharto is chairman of this year's APEC forum.

"There are many hurdles and many challenges to overcome, but the payoff would be pretty far-reaching and that is what appeals to the leaders," said Mr. Bergsten.

Oil keeps Libya afloat despite sanctions

NICOSIA (AFP) — Black gold has been the main economic force behind Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi helping him build his 25-year-old regime and keeping his country afloat despite tough U.N. sanctions.

As he celebrates Thursday the anniversary of the 1969 coup which brought him to power, he may well have occasion to be grateful for his oil reserves.

The oil boom in the 1970s just after he seized power provided the revenue to lay down Libya's current infrastructure.

And although the sanctions imposed in April 1992 have created economic hardship, the blow has been tempered because oil exports escaped the embargo.

But technical problems resulting from the embargo have forced down oil production, experts say. Tripoli now produces less than 1.4 billion barrels per day (b/d) compared with 1.7 b/d in 1992, according to the Middle East Economic Survey (MEES), a weekly review published in Cyprus.

The embargo was slapped on Tripoli after it refused to hand over suspects in the bombing of a Pan Am airliner over Lockerbie in Scotland in 1988, which killed 270 people, and the 1989 bombing of a French plane over Niger in which 170 people died.

Last December the United Nations also froze certain Libyan assets abroad and imposed an embargo on oil-related equipment.

Diplomats in Tripoli say the West is unlikely to extend the embargo to oil exports because many European countries would be hit, including Italy, Switzerland, Spain and Germany.

Officially Libya's gross domestic product (GDP) is put at four billion dollars, or \$13 billion at the official rate of \$3.37 to the dollar, oil revenues accounting for nearly all of it.

The state spends some \$6 billion on imports of essential goods, which are subsidised and sold at a quarter of their real value.

Tripoli has substantially cut military expenditure since 1990 and financial support for

certain countries and revolutionary movements since 1992.

There is also a black market where \$1 fetches 2.7 dinars and the "prices have been rising steadily for the past three years," a Western diplomat said here.

Libyan assets abroad are estimated at \$4 to \$5 billion dollars, according to MEES.

Before Col. Qadhafi 52, came to power the population of about four million Libyans and more than one million foreigners mainly lived on animal husbandry and farming.

But he launched a programme to modernise the country, pumping about \$13 billion into communications and transport and building more than 100 hospitals employing 7,000 doctors — 10 times more than in 1970.

Libya now has 400 factories, a fleet of 11 cargo vessels, 11 oil tankers and four passenger ferries, and 40 civilian planes compared with just two in 1969.

According to official figures, \$15 billion have been invested in irrigation and

agriculture, and a huge canal 4,000 kilometres long is being built at a cost of \$25 billion. Some 1.5 million children now go to school compared with 300,000.

But Libya's planes remain grounded because of the embargo and Libyans can only leave the country by road via Egypt or Tunisia, or by sea via Malta.

Officials estimate the embargo has cost Libya about \$3 billion in lost revenue.

And they blame it for the deaths of more than 1,600 people in road accidents and of 350 babies and 150 mothers, due to a shortage of medicines.

Libya has also not paid off its military debts to Russia since Moscow stopped supporting Tripoli at the United Nations.

But its foreign debt "cannot be enormous," according to one Western diplomat in Tripoli.

Meanwhile Col. Qadhafi continues to call for the embargo to be lifted, gaining the support of some Arab and African countries.

Japan unemployment worsens

TOKYO (R) — Japan's unemployment rate rose to its highest level in seven years in July, showing that the labour market is still haunted by the nation's worst postwar recession and unlikely to recover in the near future.

The government's Management and Coordination Agency announced Tuesday that the number of jobless people totalled 1.88 million in July, up from 1.83 million in June and 1.59 million a year earlier.

The seasonally adjusted jobless rate in July stood at three per cent, up from 2.9 per cent in June and 2.5 per cent a year before. The rate was last at three per cent in June, 1987, when the economy was going through a

slump caused by the strong yen.

"It is certain that the economy is heading towards recovery, but the unemployment rate is a lagging indicator and moves behind the actual economy," chief cabinet secretary Kozo Igarashi told reporters soon after the release of the data.

"For the time being, severe conditions are expected to continue," he said. Stabilising the labour market is a very important issue and the government will continue to take steps to do so, Mr. Igarashi added.

Analysts said it normally took six months to a year for the effects of economic improvements to show up in the unemployment data and predicted the jobless rate might soon surpass its record high of 3.1 per cent reached in May, 1987.

Toshiki Masui, a Tokai Bank economist, said the rate could climb as high as 3.3 per cent, but added the tempo of the increase should be moderate.

"The underlying trend in the jobless data is moving sideways or slightly higher," Mr. Masui said.

"It is uncertain whether the nation's unemployment rate is moving upwards or coming to a turning point," a Management and Coordination Agency official told a briefing. "What I can say now is that the jobless rate has been hovering at a high level since late last year."

The report by the blue-ribbon task force, Eminent Persons Group, called for leaders to "commit the region to achieve free trade in all goods, services, capital and investment by the 2020 with implementation to begin by 2000."

The group recommended that rich nations in the region knock down all trade barriers by as early as 2000 but gave newly industrialised countries 15 years and countries with per capita incomes below \$1,000 — such as China and Indonesia — the full 20 years.

Fred Bergsten, chairman of the group, is to present the findings in Jakarta Wednesday to Indonesian President Suharto. Mr. Suharto is chairman of this year's APEC forum.

"There are many hurdles and many challenges to overcome, but the payoff would be pretty far-reaching and that is what appeals to the leaders," said Mr. Bergsten.

OECD nudges Bundesbank, urges German fiscal reforms

BONN (R) — Germany's prospects for long-term economic growth and the survival of its respected "social market" economic model are threatened by excessive costs and lagging innovation in industry, the OECD has said.

The Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) said it was optimistic for growth in Europe's powerhouse economy and gave the government good marks on fiscal reforms.

In its annual report on Germany, the 23-nation think-tank said the Bundesbank had room to lower its leading interest rates further

and give a boost to domestic investment, which was still lagging behind export demand.

"The German economy is expected to recover further," Dieter Meuke, the OECD representative in Bonn, said in presenting the report at a news conference.

"Industry is picking up, but the demand is coming from exports while domestic demand remains weak," he pointed out.

The Bundesbank is making progress on inflation, although M3 money supply, its key indicator, is overshooting its target range. But taking these developments into consideration, "there

may be some further scope for reductions to give support to recovery," the OECD said.

The OECD forecast German gross domestic product (GDP) to expand by 1.8 per cent this year and 2.6 per cent next year. This is less optimistic than the most recent government predictions, which see German GDP growth of up to 2.5 per cent this year.

The report sees German unemployment at around 10 per cent this year and next year and pan-German inflation of 3.1 per cent in 1993 and 1.9 per cent in 1995. The report reviews efforts

Germany has taken to pull out of recession, takes a critical look at monetary and fiscal policies and suggests action that could be taken to improve German industry's competitiveness.

"A clear and consistent strategy is needed for the second half of the decade in order to scale back the public sector and alleviate the fiscal burden," the report said.

The government should phase out the "solidarity tax" a 7.5 per cent surcharge on income tax bills to be reintroduced in January — and cut subsidies to industry, private more state holdings, and better target social welfare

benefits, it said.

It should improve the environment for innovative activity, lower regulatory barriers on new activities and speed up plant approval procedures.

It should cut subsidies to industry further and only grant tax credits if they are non-discriminatory, such as for research and development.

"Implementation of reforms along these lines would go a long way towards strengthening the German 'model' of the social market economy," the report said.

Key sectors like machinery, chemicals and cars have been falling behind in productivity and innovation.

The decline is even more noticeable in high-tech sectors — office machines, computers, telecommunications equipment, information technology and aerospace.

"In such areas Germany has fallen behind not only the United States and Japan, but also such European countries as Switzerland, the United Kingdom and France," the OECD said.

It also called for more competition in telecommunications and an opening of energy markets, where German prices are among the highest in the OECD, and extending opening hours in the retail sector.

agreement proved that "commercial engagement has had a greater effect than the threat of commercial disengagement."

Chinese President Jiang Zemin, in a meeting the same day with Mr. Brown, praised Mr. Clinton's "wise" decision over MFN, saying "there is no excuse for us to confront with each other, but we only have the responsibility to develop our cooperation."

Xinhua reported.

In a speech to businessmen earlier Tuesday Mr. Brown

indicated that among concerns on the commercial front was protectionism in China's trade regime.

"Protected industries will never lead the world," Mr. Brown said, pointing specifically at Beijing's reluctance to open up its service industry.

He criticised China's intellectual property protection laws as inadequate and lacking enforcement, warning such a situation not only made the Chinese market unattractive.

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR WEDNESDAY AUGUST 31, 1994

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: We close out this month on a high planetary note with a triple trine that energises all our activities and points us in the right direction. Your different ideas could prove upsetting to others.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Being patient at your tasks brings fine results now. Use more care in handling routines. Show that you have wisdom to handle any situation.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) You may not get the financial results you want in the morning but later they materialise, so be calm and they will develop.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) You arise feeling frustrated, but by knowing the reason for this, you soon get back on the beam and accomplish much to your satisfaction.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) If you try to relax you can soon relieve pressure which seems intolerable. Avoid a troublemaker who is out for your head.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Try to help others now who need assistance and later they lead you a helping hand. Avoid the temptation to spend too much money.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Know what is expected of you by higher-ups

and gain their respect. Don't take any risks when dealing with outsiders on an important assignment.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) You have good ideas which should be carried through later in the day for best results. Make this a worthwhile day to get many things done.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) Get an early start to handle important business matters so you can engage in social activities later in the day with close friends.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Wait until the afternoon before dealing with a difficult associate for best results. Plan the future to get all your desires.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) This is a good day to take on difficult task which becomes easier for you now. Take treatments to improve your health and appearance.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) You have a heavy work load, so get an early start and you can plow right through it easily. Relax at home tonight with your loved ones.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Wishes of some family members may not meet with your approval, but come to a happy compromise. Be logical in your actions today.

Birthstone of August:
Peridot — Golden Quartz

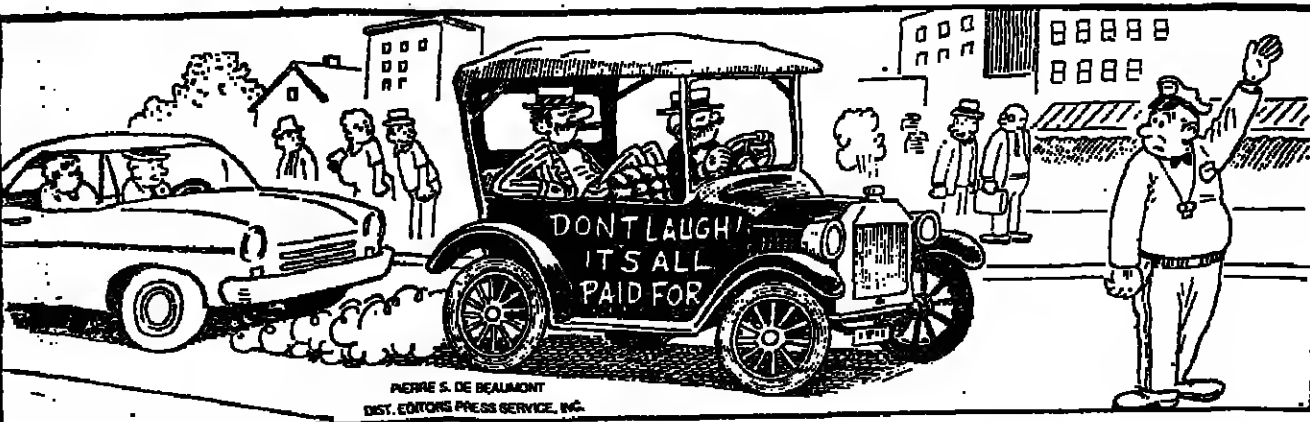
Peanuts



Andy Capp

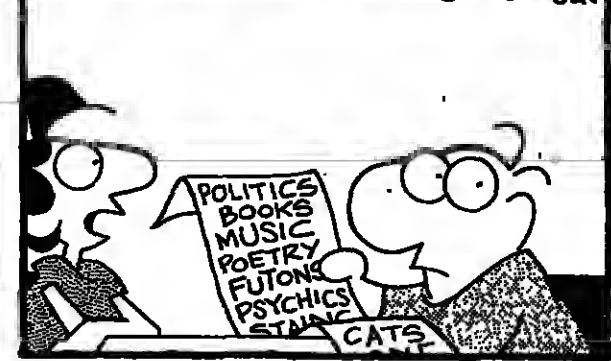


Mutt'n'Jeff



THE BETTER HALF

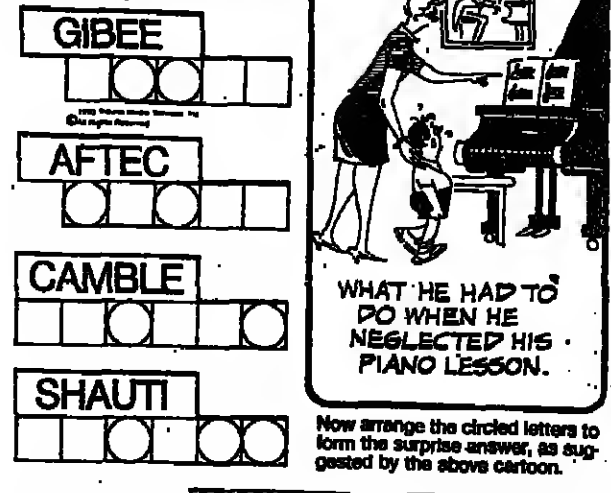
By Glasbergen



"It's a list of 100 things you can talk to me about besides your job!"

JUMBLE

Unscramble these four jumbles. One letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.



Answer here: GIBEE THE AFTEC CAMBLE SHAUTI

Yesterday's Jumble: DOGMA YACHT COBALT HANSOM
Answer: What you generally have to pay for "hot" merchandise—COLD CASH

THE Daily Crossword

by C.F. Murray



Jordan Soccer Federation's first division championship starts today

By Aleen Bannayan
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The Kingdom's top soccer teams will be back in action starting Wednesday when the first division soccer championship kicks off with 12 teams taking part.

The prestigious division groups champions A Faisali, runners up Al Wihdat, Al Hussein, Al Qadissieh, Al Ahli, Al Arabi, Al Ramtha, Al Jazireh and newcomers Al Karmal, Shabab Al Hussein, Al Jeel and Kufroum.

Titleholders, Al Faisali, will be aiming to win their 26th title since the competition kicked off back in 1944 with only four teams — Al Urdun, Al Ahli, Homentmen and Al Faisali taking part.

The Kingdom's champions last year ended the season by adding quite a few records to Jordanian sports' archives.

Al Faisali won the title with a remarkable 57 goals, cancelling the previous record of 47 by Al Ramtha in 1981.

They also maintained the most consistent form among

the 12 teams winning 17 of their 22 matches drawing in two and losing only 1-0 to Al Hussein.

During 1993, Al Faisali also won the Cup Winner's Cup and the Jordan Cup leaving only the Federation Shield to Al Ramtha.

The team's ace striker Jiryes Tadros also contributed with another record by winning the top scorer award with 19 goals.

Runners up Al Wihdat had a difficult season with a mutiny of veteran players. Their younger lineup of players nevertheless assured their club of a top standing though finishing with a comparatively low 25-22 scoring record.

Al Wihdat, who last won the first division in 1991, are expected to give it all they've got this season. Their last major title was the Cup Winner's Cup in 1992.

Al Hussein and Al Qadissieh were the third and fourth teams and had good results throughout most of the competition last year.

Al Qadissieh's striker Mustafa Adam was second best

scorer with 16 goals. The team also had the best record in the second leg of the competition.

However, Al Hussein's players enter the competition with high spirits after their 2-1 win over Al Faisali last week when they won the first record in their club's history — the 1994 Federation Shield. Al Faisali had earlier secured the season's Cup Winner's Cup.

Al Ahli, Al Jazireh, Al Arabi and Al Ramtha will be aiming to advance their standings this year, and not allow the newcomers to threaten them with relegation facing the last four teams.

In other ongoing competitions organised by the Jordan Soccer Federation (JSF), sixteen teams are now competing in the second division, 31 teams in the third division, while the fourth division includes the highest number of teams — 98 — which were divided into 25 groups.

The JSF this year announced some amendments to prizes for winners in the four respective divisions.

The first division champion will receive JD 5,000, and runner up JD 1,500.

The Federation Shield and Jordan Cup champions receive JD 2,000, while the Cup Winners' Cup champions get JD 1,500.

The second division champions receive JD 1,000 and the third division winner get JD 300.

The prizes for age-group competitions have been lowered, while the top scorer award has been set at JD 250.

In the first week of the competition, newcomers Shabab Al Hussein meet Al Jeel, Al Ramtha play Al Arabi, Al Wihdat meet Al Jazireh, Kufroum take on Al Qadissieh, Al Ahli clash with Al Faisali, and second division champions Al Karmal face Al Hussein.

AL FAISALI'S 1ST DIVISION RECORD: 1944, 1945, 1959, 1960, 1961, 1962, 1963, 1964, 1965, 1966, 1970, 1971, 1972, 1973, 1974, 1976, 1977, 1983, 1985, 1986, 1988, 1989, 1990, 1992, 1993.

Indurain calls for harmonising doping rules

BORDEAUX (R) — Tour de France champion Miguel Indurain, victim of a doping rules muddle, has called for the harmonisation of regulations to combat the abuse of drugs in sport.

Indurain Monday said reports that he had tested positive for drugs at a race in France in May had already damaged his image and his Spanish Banesto team threatened legal action against anyone who had "maliciously" tarnished his reputation.

"The damage is more or less done," said Indurain shortly after arriving in Bordeaux from Spain for Friday's attempt on the world one-hour record.

"A positive case is always a big story. What must be done now is to harmonise the rules. Let's accept this product or ban it."

Indurain said he openly used a ventolin inhaler, a regular asthma treatment, during the Tour de L'Oise in May and that Banesto doctors had given race organisers

documents to show it was being used for legitimate medical reasons.

Both the International Olympic Committee (IOC) and the International Cycling Union (UCI) accept the use of ventolin inhalers for medical purposes, even though they contain the banned drug Salbutamol.

They have said he should not be sanctioned but the French sports ministry, in an attempt to take together action against doping in sport, has outlawed all use of Salbutamol.

The French Cycling Federation is due to hold a disciplinary hearing on Sept. 6 to consider the case.

"I have always tried to be honest and I will continue to respect the rules," said the Spaniard, who won the Tour de L'Oise and who has finished victorious in each of the last four Tours de France.

"I have used ventolin several times before and I have always declared it. I don't know why the French

federation is bringing this up now. They must know. But I don't think anyone has it in for me."

Some Spanish commentators, citing the curious fact that the test result has been leaked almost four months after the event, have suggested a French plot against Indurain prompted by jealousy.

"In this case it's not just my image which is harmed but the image of all riders," Indurain said. "This time it's my turn, that's all. But there have been precedents."

In 1988, Indurain's long-time teammate Pedro Delgado was reported to have failed to dope test during the Tour de France, but the product he took was not on the UCI-banned list at the time and he went on to win the tour.

Indurain's manager Francis Laffargue said he believed Banesto would take legal action when they found out who was responsible for leaking rumours of a positive test.

Games officials tackle Taiwan dilemma

PARIS (AFP) — Asian Games officials are busy putting together a face-saving compromise which will keep Taiwan President Lee Teng-Hui away from Hiroshima in October and avert a possible Chinese boycott.

"We are unhappy at the way this has escalated but we are taking everyone's point of view into account and we are optimistic of finding a solution," Olympic Council of Asia director general Abdul Muttalib Ahmad told AFP.

The Chinese government had warned of a political storm if Lee was to visit Japan after being invited by OCA President Sheikh Ahmad Al Fahad of Kuwait. The sheikh, yet to arrive in Paris, had refused to withdraw his invitation.

IOC opens 1st congress in 13 years

PARIS (AP) — The International Olympic Committee (IOC) opened its first congress in 13 years Monday with France's Prime Minister giving the strongest suggestion so far that Paris will bid to host the 2004 summer games.

"I would like to declare before you today a wish: That our country has the desire to welcome, at the beginning of the next century, the summer Olympic games," Prime Minister Edouard Balladur said in a speech opening the 12th IOC Congress.

While he did not specify a city or a year, it has been widely rumoured that Paris will bid for the 2004 games. Paris had been a candidate for the 1992 summer games, which were awarded to Barcelona. Another French city, Albertville, hosted the winter Olympics the same year.

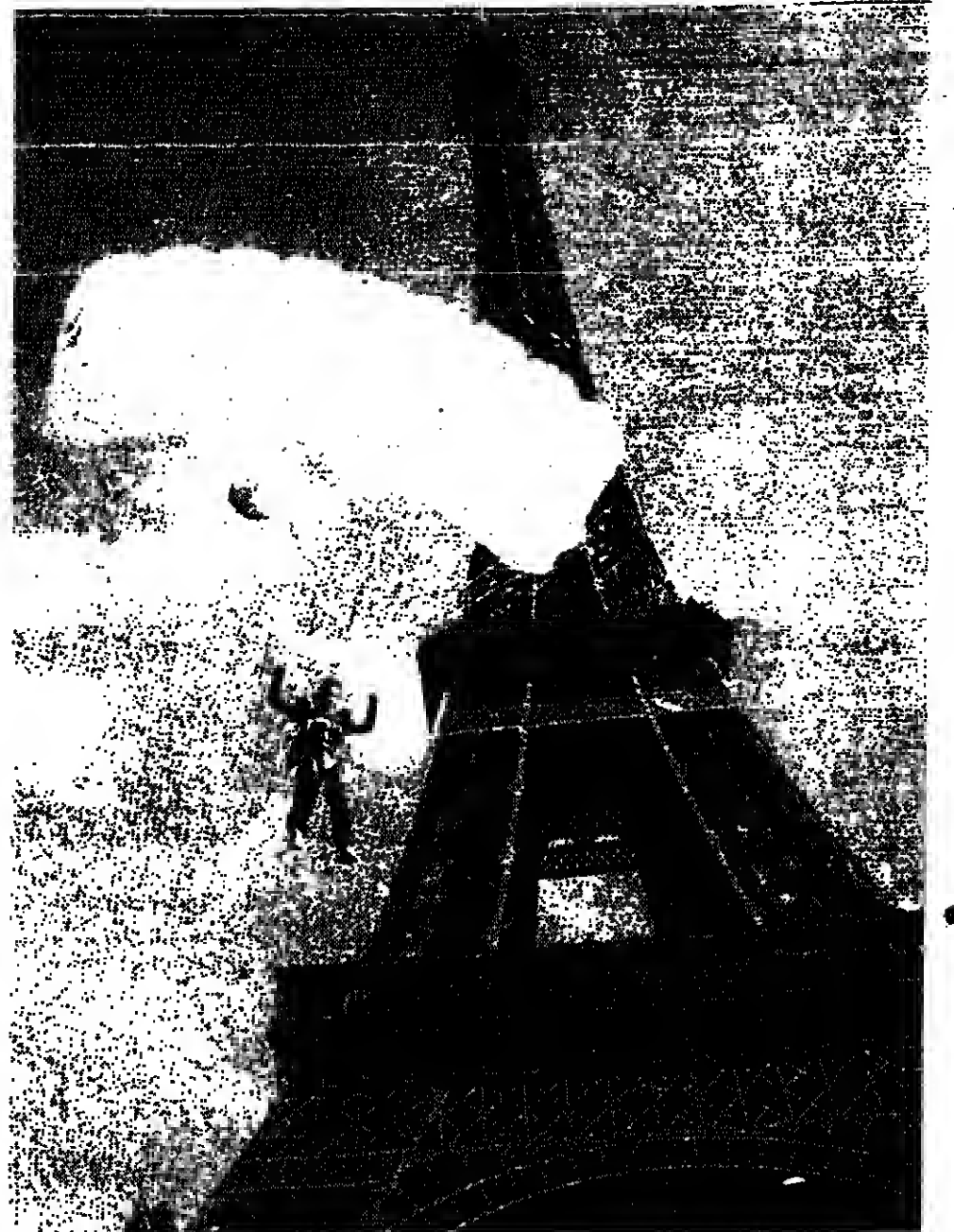
Earlier, five parachutists fell from a near-cloudless sky, bringing with them the Olympic flame lit in Greece last week. They landed in front of the Eiffel Tower as a French climber rappelled 120 metres (400 feet) down from the second level of the tower, carrying an Olympic flag.

A relay of 33 champion athletes, led by two-time Olympic champion hurdler Edwin Moses, took turns carrying the torch through the streets of Paris, stopping briefly at the Sorbonne University where Frenchman Baron Pierre de Coubertin founded the modern Olympic movement 100 years ago.

"After a century, the flame is in some way returning to its starting point, from where it will set off again into another century," IOC President Juan Antonio Samaranch said at the Sorbonne.

The flame was then taken to the Bercy indoor sports arena, where Olympic 400-metre hurdles champion Marie-Jose Perec lit a larger flame following a concert by Dee Dee Bridgewater and band leader Michel Legrand. Balladur and other officials hailed the Olympic movement, celebrating its centenary at this congress.

Already, the International Olympic Committee has proven its influence, said Balladur, who was a last-minute stand-in for ailing President Francois Mitterrand. "It has contributed to fighting against apartheid in South Africa. It supports national Olympic committees of countries at war. Time and again.



A parachutist lands at the Eiffel Tower during a ceremony marking the opening of the XII Olympic Congress Monday. Some 2,000 sports leaders from 196 nations are taking part in this week-long Congress (AFP photo)

Olympic solidarity has had beneficial effects."

The IOC's 88 members are meeting all week with officials of 57 international sports federations and 196 national Olympic committees, examining the Olympic movement under such themes as its contribution to society, the contemporary athlete, sports in its social context and sports and the mass media.

When the congress ends Friday, "I wish to speak to the world and show what we've done for solidarity and peace over a century," IOC President Juan Antonio Samaranch said. "I want to

tell the world that it was not only the centennial congress, but also the congress of unity."

The working sessions of the IOC Congress, the first since Baden-Baden, Germany, in 1981, are scheduled from Tuesday to Saturday. About 3,500 people are expected to attend, with nearly 500 speeches to be delivered.

The series of Olympic meetings, which comprises an IOC executive board session, IOC Congress and IOC general session, and which is not expected to arrive at major decisions, has been criticised by some for its \$16

million cost. Paris, which is footing a large portion of the bill, is seen as trying to put a good face forward for a bid for the 2004 games, which will be awarded in 1997 in Lausanne, Switzerland.

Several other cities have expressed their interest in bidding for the 2004 games, including Cape Town, South Africa; Istanbul, Turkey; Stockholm, Sweden; Buenos Aires, Argentina; and Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, China, which lost out to Sydney, Australia, in the vote for the 2000 games, is considering making another bid.

Perkins and Popov top of the world

ROME (R) — Kieren Perkins and Alexander Popov, who have plucked most of swimming's big prizes, now pursue with supreme confidence their first world titles.

Both won Olympic crowns in Barcelona two years ago and both have set stunning world records this summer, boding well for the world championships which begin Thursday.

Perkins defied his coach's orders last week when he eclipsed two world records in one race at the Commonwealth Games in Victoria, Canada.

Coach John Carey had decreed an 800-metre world mark would suffice but Per-

kins felt good and smashed his 1,500 record too.

The lithe Australian aims for more record-breaking in Rome's Foro Italico where he bids to repeat his Commonwealth Games golden treble in the 200, 400 and 1,500 freestyle.

Perkins missed gold by a fingertip in an epic 1,500 duel with Joerg Hoffmann at the last world championships in Perth, Australia, in January 1991 but trounced the German and everyone else at the 1992 Olympics.

Popov is similarly in a class of his own at the shorter freestyle distances and anything less than a repeat of the 50 and 100 golds he won at

the Olympics would be a major surprise.

The unhurried elegance of the rangy Russian's stroke belies his power and drive, and this year Popov has loosed the short course 100 freestyle world mark four times in 11 weeks while eclipsing the 100 long-course mark of American Matt Biondi in June.

He is now poised to figure high among a host of new world champions in Rome.

There is room at the top because a clutch of Olympic gold medalists, including Hungarian individual medley star Tamas Darnyi and Americans Mike Barrowman, Nelson Diebel and Pab-

lo Morales, have quit the sport.

Americans Mel Stewart and Tom Jager, world champions at 200 butterfly and 50 freestyle respectively, are also absentees.

Olympic champion Stewart picked up an infection at the Goodwill Games in St. Petersburg in July and had to delay an operation on his tonsils. Jager, world champion in 1986 and 1991, pulled out after U.S. team chief Dennis Pursley refused his request to travel to Rome later than the rest of the squad.

Two of the best men's races could come in the breaststroke with world champion Norbert Rozsa and fellow Hungarian and European champion Karoly Gut-

ler against new Commonwealth Games gold medalists Phil Rogers of Australia and Nick Gillingham of Britain.

China's daunting array of world beaters threaten to dominate the women's events, emulating the formidable East German "wundermaedchen" of yesterday.

The Chinese gathered their first four world titles in 1991 and collected four more at the 1992 Barcelona Olympics, but a new generation has emerged in the past year.

None of the Barcelona champions will swim in Rome. Freestylers Yang Wenyi and Zhuang Yong and butterflyer Qian Hong have gone while individual medley swimmer Lin Li has been chosen only for the forthcoming Asian Games.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Canadian medallist fails test

VICTORIA (AFP) — Canadian weightlifter Jim Dan Corbett was stripped of his three bronze medals at the Commonwealth Games here late Monday after testing positive for drugs. All three of his medals in the 83kilogrammes snatch, clean and jerk and total go to fellow Canadian Yvan Darsigny, who was originally fourth in all three categories. The Commonwealth Games federation said it planned no further action against Corbett although the International Weightlifting Federation might act. The drugs used were the stimulants ephedrine and pseudoephedrine.

British diver suspended

ROME (AP) — The International Swimming Federation has suspended British diver Tony Ali for six months after he refused to take a random doping test, federation officials said Monday. Federation officials are in Rome this week as the capital prepares to host the world championships Sept. 1-11. Suspension began as of Sunday, Aug. 28, said a statement from the federation, specifying that Ali thus would not be able to participate in the championship. The brief statement gave no details about the refusal, other than saying it took place outside competition. A spokesman for the federation in Rome, Paolo Pacietti, said the test that Ali was supposed to take was a surprise. Britain's swimming federation has been notified of suspension, the federation said.

Ingesson heads for Sheffield

STOCKHOLM (AFP) — English Premiership club Sheffield Wednesday are about to sign PSV Eindhoven's Swedish international midfielder Klas Ingesson, it was reported here Monday. Ingesson, who helped Sweden to third place in the World Cup, has only a few details and a medical to sort out before signing, Sweden's TT news agency said. The transfer fee was not known. The 26-year-old, who had also been contacted by Liverpool and Portugal's Benfica, apparently does not get on with PSV Eindhoven coach Aad de Mos. If the transfer goes through, Ingesson hopes to play in Wednesday's game at Nottingham Forest Sept. 10.

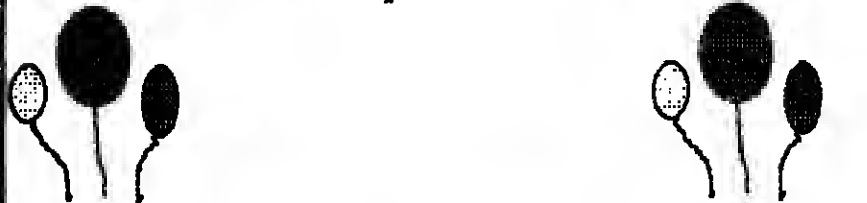
Villa beat Coventry 1-0

LONDON (R) — Dwight Yorke scored in only the third minute and that was all Aston Villa needed for a 1-0 victory over struggling Coventry in the English Premier League Monday. The triumph was Villa's first after draws in their three previous matches and it boosted them into a cluster of five clubs with six points, though their goal difference leaves them in ninth place. Yorke headed home after just two minutes and 33 seconds following a bad blunder of a Villa cross by the Coventry defence. "Obviously we needed it," Villa manager Ron Atkinson said of the win. "I thought we defended magnificently," he added. "Coventry worked very hard but I cannot recall any clear cut chances they had. We didn't allow them any opportunities."

'Schumacher rightly disqualified'

VIENNA (AFP) — World championship leader Michael Schumacher was rightly disqualified after winning Sunday's Belgian Grand Prix, according to Austrian ex-driver Niki Lauda. Schumacher was disqualified nearly five hours after the race when a compulsory wooden block under his car was found to be a couple of millimetres too thin. The thinness could have raised cornering speeds. His Benetton-Ford team have appealed the decision, which handed victory to Britain's Damon Hill in the Williams-Renault. But Lauda, a leading voice among grand prix drivers and consultants to Ferrari, said the move was "absolutely fair," although he blamed the team rather than the driver. "If a car is built to the very limits of legality, as Benetton has apparently done all year, it's quite simply not right," he said.

Body Reform
NATURAL BEAUTY PRODUCTS
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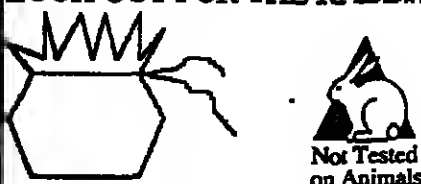
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The British Council

GCE EXAMINATIONS

The British Council would like to announce that entries for January 1995 General Certificate of Education Examination and November 1994 IGSCE will be accepted from Saturday 3 September to Tuesday 6 September 1994. Registration time: 09:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Candidates are required to bring with them an official identification and one photograph.

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Mansell returns to Formula One

LONDON (AP) — Former world champion Nigel Mansell is to return to Formula One racing with the Williams-Renault team for the last three races of this season.

Williams announced Tuesday that Mansell would re-join the team for the final three grands prix after his commitments with the Newman-Haas Indy-car team in the United States are complete.

He will race the European Grand Prix at Jerez in Spain on Oct. 16, the Japanese at Suzuka on Nov. 6 and the Australian in Adelaide one week later.

The Williams team said it would make no further comment on its driver line-up for 1995.

Mansell has four races left in the Indy car season for the Newman-Haas team with whom he won the championship in his first season last year, and has said he is totally committed to those races before concentrating on Formula One.

He hinted at a return to Formula One with a guest appearance for Williams at the French Grand Prix July 3, and although he did not finish the race, team boss Frank Williams was impressed with his drive.

"I think Nigel enjoyed his race in France and the fact he is prepared to come back for the final three seems to confirm this," Williams said.

"Nigel never takes an easy option and coming to Formula One after two seasons in another series confirms this."

"He did a very good job for us in France and I am sure he will do the same in Spain, Japan and Australia."

He will partner fellow Briton Damon Hill as Williams' number two driver, relegating Scott David Coulthard to test driver.

Mansell won 27 grands prix



Nigel Mansell

for the Williams team and won the 1992 World Championship, turning to the Indy-car circuit the following year.

In all, Mansell has won 30 grands prix, winning three with Ferrari in a two year stint with the Italian team in 1989 and 1990.

He started his career with Williams in 1985 and returned after his session at Ferrari in 1991.

Despite speculation he would drive the last three grands prix when he drove in France, Mansell insisted that drive was a "guest appearance."

"I must add caution to people getting excited. It's just one appearance and we'll have to wait and see after that," he said at the time.

After the death of Ayrton Senna at the San Marino Grand Prix May 1, Williams had been talking to Mansell to try to entice him back on the team, despite the differences of opinion which saw them split in 1992.

Williams would not comment on how much money

was involved in Mansell's return, although it was reported his comeback in France was worth \$1 million.

Carl Haas, co-owner of the Indy-car team with actor Paul Newman, had already said Tuesday Mansell would leave the team after the final race on the Indy-car circuit Oct. 9 at Monterey, Calif.

"Paul Newman and I have enjoyed our success with Nigel," Haas said in a statement.

"We became friends and we made history together... We thank Nigel for his contributions... and the worldwide attention he brought to the PPG Indy car world series. We all wish him the best of luck and success in the future, and I know our friendship will continue."

Newman-Haas, which also will lose second driver Mario Andretti, who is retiring at the end of this season, is expected to fill their driver seats with Michael Andretti, Mario's 31-year-old son, and 25-year-old Canadian Paul Tracy.

Ivanisevic out, then Becker too

U.S. OPEN

NEW YORK (AP) — Doubles specialist Richey Reneberg played the singles match of his life Monday night and ousted seventh-seeded Boris Becker from the U.S. Open in a five-set first-round victory.

Reneberg, a member of the U.S. Davis Cup team, beat the former U.S. Open champion from Germany, 6-1, 6-4, 4-6, 1-6, 7-6 (7-5) in a match that lasted more than three hours and ended well past midnight.

"It was the best set of tennis I ever played in my life in the fifth set," Reneberg said after his first victory over Becker. "No way I can play any better than that. I never have and probably never will again."

Day 1 of the open lasted more than 13 hours, from morning rain to midday heat to night chill, from an upset of No. 2 Goran Ivanisevic to the upset of Becker.

Long after Ivanisevic fell in four sets to Markus Zöcke, Reneberg closed the show with an overhead into an open court that Becker couldn't reach.

Reneberg, 28, covered so much of the court that it seemed at times as if he had an invisible doubles partner on his side. Becker tried to beat him from the baseline, then from the net, but couldn't overcome a sluggish start.

Becker occasionally was brilliant: He served 10 of his 20 aces in the fifth set. But there were other times when he seemed destined to lose: He hit 29 of his 59 unforced errors in the first two sets.

He was coming off four victories in Los Angeles and New Haven, Conn., and was deemed a potent contender at the open.

But Reneberg was nearly flawless with only 28 unforced errors in the whole match. He hit lunging winners off the frame of his racket, passing shots that left Becker stunned, groundstrokes that nicked the corners.

Even when Becker evened the match in sets 3 and 4, Reneberg played far above his usual standard.

"He slowed down in the fourth set and saved his energy for the fifth," Becker said. "The balls here are heavier and softer. That suits his game very much. He's a counter-puncher."

Becker said organizers had tried to slow down the hardcourt this year and "everybody knows I am not the best on a slow surface."

"I played one of the best summers of my life," he said. "I felt good. I was winning a tournament without losing a set."

Ivanisevic, bothered by a sore hip one week, a sprained brain the next, was gone from the open a few hours after the first rain, muttering something about trying his luck on the women's tour.

He stood meekly behind the baseline during most of his 6-2, 7-5, 3-6, 7-5 loss to Zöcke, a 1.96-metre (6-foot-5) player distinguished only by his hard service.

Ivanisevic could have

taken advantage of Zöcke's slowness, his erratic groundstrokes, his weak second serve. Instead, he displayed a mixture of indifference and confusion. He strolled away from one of Zöcke's 16 aces before the ball even crossed the net. He stared plaintively in the last game when one forehand by Zöcke clipped the net cord and skipped into the corner for a winner, and when one of his own sat up for Zöcke to put away on match point.

There was only one short span during the fourth set when Ivanisevic played anywhere close to his potential. He dealt out 11 of his 21 aces in that set. He had none in the first set.

"I don't know," Ivanisevic said a dozen times afterward, shaking his head as he sought to explain what happened. "I mean, I didn't play tennis today. I don't know what I do there. Not only today. Every year when I come (to the) U.S. Open, I don't know what I am doing here. Sometimes I ask myself why I am coming here because... I don't know."

No one can figure out why he plays so badly at the open. He lost in the second round here last year and in 1989, in the third round in 1990 and 1992, and got as far as the fourth round only in 1991. He plays well on grass and on clay, and his game seems perfectly suited for the open's hard courts. Yet, he hates this surface and seems unable to master it.

Asked if his hip injury affected him, Ivanisevic replied dryly:

"Maybe brain injury."

He didn't make excuses. It wasn't New York or the fans or the jets huzzing overhead.

"It is a problem with me," he said. "I am putting too much pressure on myself that I cannot play, that I am too scared or I stay back, I never come in. That is what happened today..."

"Maybe I should try to play some women's tournaments next year. Maybe I win a couple of rounds, but something will happen."

Ivanisevic's loss created even more uncertainty in the men's draw. No. 1 Pete Sampras is questionable to repeat as champion after being sidelined for more than a month.

No. 3 Sergi Bruguera, two-time French Open champion, appeared almost as comfortable on the hard courts as he did on clay, beating Bryan Shelton 6-0, 6-2, 7-5.



Spain's Arantxa Sanchez Vicario hits a backhand against Italy's Linda Ferrando Monday during their first round match at the U.S. Open (AFP photo)

What's good for others may not be good for U.S. Open

NEW YORK (AP) — What's always been good for the Australian Open, French Open and Wimbledon continues not to be good for the U.S. Open.

At least that's the belief of J. Howard "Bumpy" Frazer, president of the United States Tennis Association, concerning the best scheduling for the men's and women's singles semifinals and finals.

At the three other Grand Slams, the women's semifinals are Thursday with their final Saturday and the men's semifinals are Friday with their final Sunday.

Despite the continued protests of the players, who desire a day's rest between the semifinals and final, the USTA persists on doing it their way.

The USTA way, with a major television contract as incentive, is to feature what they call "Super Saturday."

At the U.S. Open, the women play their semis Friday and then their final sandwiched between the two men's semifinals Saturday. Then it's the men's final late Sunday afternoon to cap off the two-week tournament.

According to Frazer, it's the other Grand Slams who have it wrong.

"This is a case where they are all out of step except us," Frazer said Monday. "We are well aware that there is certainly comments around 'Super Saturday'. We believe that 'Super Saturday' is the greatest single day in American tennis."

"It gets a tremendous television audience that we couldn't possibly get, truthfully, if we played the men's singles Friday. And the obvious reason is that many more people work on Friday than work on Saturday."

Frazer isn't convinced that a day's rest in between the semis and finals might produce better quality matches although the players have been saying that for years.

"I can't say it is not best for the players," Frazer said. "I am not accepting it."

Return to Power: Martina Navratilova is heading toward retirement at the end of 1994, but she's also returning to her former position as president of the WTA Tour.

"Our No. 1 priority is to find a sponsor and we will be working on marketing ideas which

will go beyond playing music on changeovers," Navratilova said, in reference to the men's ATP Tour's recent experiment with rock music during a tournament in New Haven, Conn.

The WTA tour has been functioning this entire year without a sponsor after Kraft pulled out at the end of 1993.

Navratilova, who will conclude her singles career following the Virginia Slims championships in November, was elected president of the WTA Tour Players Association of board directors at their annual U.S. Open meeting Sunday.

The holder of 18 Grand Slam singles titles, Navratilova served as president of the association in 1979-80 and 1983. Navratilova takes over from outgoing president Pam Shriver, who held the post for three terms and will remain on the board of directors.

More than clay: He won the French Open in 1989, and for some people Michael Chang was forever stamped a clay-court player. That, however, is hardly the case.

"I don't think I have to fight that image anymore," Chang said Monday after his 6-4, 6-2, 6-2 victory over Andrei Cherkasov. "I think for two years after the French Open in '89, I was pretty much geared as a clay-court player."

"... Nowadays I don't think people see me as a clay-court player, or any particular surface player, the reason being is that my results have come on a wide variety of surfaces and I think a majority of them are on hard court."

Chang says that because tennis has become a power game he has had to work on his serve. And he likes what he sees.

"A few years back I had to work on my serve, and I think it is now becoming easier to hold serve," he said. "So I think that has helped me out quite a bit. But everything else needs to work as well. Everybody knows that if you serve big, you still have to play."

Korda gone: Petr Korda of the Czech Republic became the second seeded man to leave the U.S. Open when he withdrew Monday because of a pulled groin muscle.

Nigeria plans to stem defection of athletes

LAGOS (R) — Nigeria plans to stem the tide of its athletes defecting when they travel abroad for competitions, a senior sports spokesman said Monday.

Two Nigerians, badminton player Bisi Tiamiyu and Augustine Idahosa, a gymnast, disappeared during the Commonwealth Games in Canada at the weekend, joining more than 50 others who have failed to return home in the last three years.

"This latest incident will make us quickly introduce stiffer measures against our players whenever they want to travel abroad," said Nigeria Football Association

(NFA) spokesman Austin Mgbolu.

These would include ensuring the team leader has for safe-keeping the travel documents of all members and that they would swear on oath in law courts to return home.

"We hope, in addition to these measures, that the constant education of the athletes on the negative consequences of defection, will also help stem the tide," Mgbolu said.

So far only three defectors — members of Shooting Stars sports club football side in 1992 when five players vanished from Rome's airport — have returned home.

UEFA gives green light to Albania, Georgia

BERNE (R) — The European Football Union (UEFA) Monday gave the green light to Albania and Georgia to play their opening matches next week in the qualifying competition for the 1996 European championship.

UEFA had earlier extended a deadline to the two countries to give guarantees on player defections and security before allowing them to play their games in group seven.

Albania's away match in Wales and Georgia's home game with Moldova next Wednesday may now both go ahead, UEFA said.

UEFA had told Albania Thursday that it would be thrown out of the tournament if it did not provide guarantees that players would not defect.

Defections have long been a problem for travelling Albanian teams and some 400 of the nation's players have moved abroad since the fall of communism.

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EACH TRICK IN ITS TIME

Both vulnerable. South deals.

NORTH
♠ A 5
♥ 7 3 2
♦ K 4
♣ Q 10 8 6 4 3

WEST
♠ 4 2
♥ Q J 9 5 4
♦ 7
♣ A K J 5

EAST
♠ 10 8 8
♥ Q J 10 9 8 6
♦ 9 7 2
♣ A K

SOUTH
♠ K Q J 10 9 6 3
♥ A K
♦ A 6 3 2
♣ Void

The bidding:
South West North East
2♠ Pass 3♠ Pass
3♥ Pass 4♥ Pass
5♥ Pass 6♥ Pass
8♥ Pass
Pass Pass

Opening lead: Queen of ♠

There is a time for everything under the sun, including when you win your tricks. South was in a bit of a hurry and paid a terrible price for that peccadillo.

North had a difficult rebid to make and raising with a doubleton

ace was a practical solution. After a cue-bidding sequence, North elected to sign off at six spades because of the lack of a third trump.

Afrid a club lead might give declarer a tempo in setting up dummy's long suit. West started a heart.

Declarer won with the king and it seemed a grand slam might have been missed. Crying the hand little thought declarer set about ruffing diamond losers by leading a diamond to the king and returning the suit to the ace. West ruffed and shifted to a trump and in the fullness of time declarer had to concede another diamond for down one.

Had declarer concentrated on making just 12 tricks all would have been well. After winning the king of diamonds at trick two, South simply should have conceded a diamond.

The game would have been rendered helpless.

Best return is a trump. Declarer wins in hand, ruffs a diamond with the ace of trumps and returns to hand with a club ruff to draw the remaining trumps. Now declarer can score the red-suit aces at leisure and collect 12 tricks.

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	Kathleen Turner, Dennis Quaid — In UNDERCOVER BLUES Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30	Nadia Al Jundi in SPY NIKMAT FAHMI Shows: 10:30, 8:30, 6:30, 3:30, 12:30	CONCORD '1' MRS. DOUBTFIRE Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:00, 8:15, 10:30 CONCORD THEATRE '2' Soon...Rabi' Shehab in the comedy: "What's Right, Elewa?" Starting of Sep. 7th, 1994	Presents the political comedy: Legal Evening Entertainment Starring: Abeer Issa, Daoud Jalal, Hassan Al Shaer and Mahmoud Abu Gharib. For reservation call tel.: 618274 - 618275	Today & Everyday Abu Amwad in social comedy "FUNCTURED BAG"	★ The play WELCOME ARAB SUMMIT With: Amal Dabbas Every Saturday, Sunday and Monday. ★ The play Salam Ya Salam With: Nadera Omran Every Wednesday, Thursday and Friday

دليل الإعلانات

NEWS IN BRIEF

Ciller cancels trip to Cairo conference

ANKARA (AFP) — Turkish Prime Minister Tansu Ciller has cancelled a planned visit to the U.N. World Population Conference because of a tight schedule, the foreign ministry announced Tuesday. The announcement was made after a Cairo court Tuesday rejected an attempt by Muslim fundamentalists to have the U.N. World Population Conference cancelled, as Sudan joined Saudi Arabia in boycotting the controversial gathering. Turkey will now be represented by state minister Onay Alpago. "Turkey, which attributes particular importance to development issues, supports efforts aimed at improving the standard of living of children and mothers, their education and their access to medical services," a statement issued by the ministry said. Turkey will back any "development that respects the environment, and favours measures enhancing sexual equality, the development of family planning and health as well as the improvement of the situation of immigrants."

Japan welcomes Israeli-PLO pact

TOKYO (AFP) — Japan on Tuesday said it welcomed an accord signed by Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) granting Palestinians the right to administer basic services on the West Bank, the foreign ministry said. The ministry said in a statement that Japan expected the agreement covering education, health, welfare, tourism and taxation to be implemented as soon as possible. It said Tokyo hoped negotiations on an interim self-government will make further progress and that an election for the Palestinian Council would soon take place. "Japan intends to continue its assistance to the peace process by urging the parties concerned to move the peace negotiations forward, participating in the multilateral talks, and extending assistance to the Palestinians," it added. Japan has pledged to provide \$25.75 million to help finance Palestine's administrative expenses.

Israel frees Jewish extremist

TEL AVIV (AFP) — Israel set free Tuesday the spokesman for the anti-Arab Kach movement who was arrested in the aftermath of the Hebron mosque massacre, the authorities announced. Noam Federman served six months in administrative detention as the Israeli government cracked down on extreme right wingers who praised the murder of 29 Palestinians by a Jewish settler in the West Bank town on February 25. Mr. Federman told state radio after his release that he would resume the fight "against the gang which is running the Israeli government." The government outlawed Kach on March 13 and declared it a "terrorist" movement. Moshe Kallisch, a Jewish settler, had spent years as a Kach militant. Three other Jewish extremists remain in administrative detention, a renewable emergency measure which had been applied only to Palestinians until the mosque slaughter.

Iran cracks counterfeiting ring, arrests 18

TEHRAN (AFP) — Security forces have smashed a ring of counterfeiters in western Iran, arresting 18 people including a Turkish national, a newspaper reported Tuesday. Hamshahri, quoting an intelligence official in Hamadan province, said the suspects forged and distributed fake money in several provinces. One of those arrested was a Turkish citizen who smuggled fake money into the country, it said without identifying the foreign suspect. Several members of the group had links to the main armed opposition group, the Iraq-based People's Mujahideen, the paper added.

Sudanese minister talks to Zimbabwe over rebels

HARARE (R) — Zimbabwe and Sudan, at odds over alleged support for Harare for anti-Khartoum rebels, held talks on Tuesday in smooth relations, Zimbabwean official sources said. "Zimbabwe wants to set the record straight that it is not supporting militarily the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) as alleged recently," one source told Reuters. The talks between Sudan's Foreign Minister Hussein Suleiman Abu Saif and his Zimbabwean counterpart Nathan Shamuyirira took place after foreign press reports said Harare was arming the SPLA, fighting Khartoum's Islamist government since 1983. The SPLA, drawn from the largely Christian and animist south, has diplomatic representation in Zimbabwe, which is generally thought to be sympathetic to the rebels' cause.

Iraq blames U.S. for Cuban refugee crisis

NICOSIA (AFP) — U.S. expansionism is to blame for the wave of Cubans leaving the Florida Straits on makeshift rafts to head for the United States, Iraq said Tuesday. The Iraqi government newspaper Al Jumhuriya charged that the United States had "incited the Cubans to flee (...) without being capable of giving them refuge. The United States has stepped up its plots against Cuba" because the island "won't bow to its colonialist and expansionist policy," the paper said according to the official Iraqi agency INA, monitored in Cyprus. More than 17,000 Cubans have been picked up at sea this month, the biggest wave since the 1980 Mariel boatlift in which more than 125,000 Cubans arrived in the United States over five months. Iraq has been under a U.N. oil and trade embargo since it invaded Kuwait in August 1990. The United States has strongly opposed lifting the sanctions in a bid to force Baghdad to comply with U.N. resolutions on dismantling its weapons of mass destruction and to recognising Kuwait's borders and sovereignty.

Israeli residents protest collaborators moving in

TEL AVIV (AFP) — Dozens of residents from Jaffa demonstrated Monday against the resettlement of hundreds of Palestinian collaborators in the town by Israeli authorities. Residents said the defence ministry had authorised 500 Palestinians from the West Bank and the Gaza Strip to seek refuge in the town south of Tel Aviv, after they were threatened for collaborating with Israeli authorities. Demonstrators, who included Israeli Arabs, carried banners which read: "We are not a rubbish dump." Ronnie Millo, mayor of Tel Aviv, told Israeli radio that the presence of too many collaborators in Jaffa could "disturb the residents' peace." Mr. Millo recalled that a Palestinian had killed one of his Israeli neighbours there in June, allegedly to win back approval of friends and family. Around 1,000 Palestinians suspected of collaborating with Israeli authorities have been killed since the outbreak of the intifada in the occupied territories in December 1987, according to an army toll.

Former Aristide allies detained in Haiti

PORT-AU-PRINCE (AFP) — Three people including two former members of the security contingent of exiled President Jean-Bertrand Aristide were detained in the Haitian capital, informed sources said Tuesday. The sources said those detained Monday included Philippe Michel and Jean-Marie Thomas, who helped coordinate security for Mr. Aristide during his 1990 election campaign and after he took office in February 1991 until the September 1991 coup. Also detained was Thomas' wife, who is also a former security official. The reasons for the arrests were not immediately clear. Authorities are allowed to detain persons before deciding whether to charge or release them. The detentions came a day after Father Jean-Marie Vincent, a priest and close adviser of Aristide, was gunned down as he returned home.



German President Roman Herzog and his wife Christane welcome their Majesties King Hussein and Queen Noor to Villa Hammerschmidt Monday (AFP photo)

Syria criticises early empowerment pact

DAMASCUS, Syria (AP) — Syria criticised Tuesday a new accord that gave Palestinians some autonomous powers in the Israeli-occupied West Bank.

The government newspaper Tishrin said in an editorial that Monday's accord, which gave the Palestinians control over education, health, welfare, tourism and taxation, legitimised Israel's occupation.

It said Yasser Arafat, head of the Palestine National Authority that is running autonomous zones in the Gaza

Strip and the West Bank town of Jericho, was in a "real predicament."

To help him out, Israel gave him "early authorities" to run much of the Palestinians' daily affairs in the rest of the West Bank. Monday's agreement was "an attempt to alleviate the popular Palestinian pressure on him."

Tishrin said the new agreement unveiled the Palestine Liberation Organisation's "deteriorating state and its full subjugation to the Israeli will."

"Arafat's approval of this

agreement means that the PLO has adopted the Israeli stand, which stipulates that the land belongs to Israel and the PLO runs the affairs of some Palestinian inhabitants in the light of continuing Israeli occupation."

On the other hand, a radical Palestinian group opposed to the PLO-Israeli deal on Tuesday condemned Mr. Arafat's plans to change the Palestinian charter.

The Fateh Uprising, led by Colonel Abu Musa who rebelled against Mr. Arafat in 1983, said the PLO chief was

no longer representing

Palestinians and that his decisions were not binding.

"Arafat's establishments lost their legitimacy when he approved a deal with Israel which did not provide Palestinians with the minimum of their rights," the statement said.

It said Fateh Uprising will reject calls for the convening of the Palestine National Council (PNC) in Gaza and said Mr. Arafat was responding to the enemy's plans to eliminate the Palestinian cause."

Pakistan says Rabin, not Bhutto, lacks manners

ISLAMABAD (R) — Pakistan, stung by Israel's refusal to let Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto visit the Gaza Strip without its permission, on Tuesday criticised "discourteous" remarks by her Israeli counterpart, Yitzhak Rabin.

"We have noted with regret the unwarranted and discourteous remarks of the Israeli prime minister. We do not need lessons in manners from him," a foreign ministry statement said.

"Prime Minister Bhutto proposed to visit Gaza at the invitation of President Yasser Arafat as a gesture of our

continuing solidarity with the Palestinian people," the statement said.

"It is unfortunate that Israel has chosen to place unnecessary impediments in the way of this visit," it said one day after Ms. Bhutto scrapped the trip, planned for next Sunday.

She would have been the first foreign head of government to visit Gaza since it achieved self-rule from Israel in May.

The diplomatic tussle over her trip exposed the tensions between Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organisation

on sensitive matters of sovereignty and border control in the newly autonomous area.

Ms. Bhutto had declared she would have no contact with Israel, which Pakistan does not recognise. Mr. Rabin hit back on Monday, saying the Pakistani prime minister must be taught some manners and must check with Israel before visiting Gaza.

Ms. Bhutto's visit had already been cancelled once before, was revived and then quashed again on Monday. Mr. Arafat told the Pakistani authorities the Palesti-

nians would complain to the U.N. Security Council that Israel was in breach of the peace agreement that granted self-rule to Gaza.

Israel, which still controls the Rafah border crossing that links Gaza with Egypt, on Sunday barred a Pakistani diplomat from entering Gaza to prepare for Ms. Bhutto's visit.

Pakistan has withheld recognition of Israel even after its self-rule agreement with the Palestinians, pending a decision by the Organisation of the Islamic Conference.

'Accused aimed to destabilise Kingdom'

AMMAN (AP) — Prosecution witnesses Tuesday accused Muslim extremists in trial in a military court of planning and carrying out bombing attacks on public and private institutions with the aim of destabilising the Kingdom.

The four witnesses told the non-jury tribunal, presided over by Col. Hafez Amin, that the extremists wanted to cleanse the Muslim Kingdom of what they saw as corrupt Western influences.

Abdul Nassir Younis, 25, said he was approached by one of the defendants who asked him to participate in blowing up Amman's Grand Palace Hotel, where Younis was an employee.

He said the defendant disapproved of a night club in the hotel, which served alcoholic beverages.

Muslim extremists advocate, among other things, the closing down of bars and night clubs and the banning of alcohol and "lewd" programmes because they contravene Islamic teachings. Reporters were told they

may not quote directly from witness testimony while the names of the defendants could not be published for legal considerations.

The 25 Muslim extremists, including three still at large, could face the death penalty. They allegedly plotted to assassinate Jordanian and Palestinian politicians and to torpedo the U.S.-backed Middle East peace process, which began in 1991.

The 22 men on trial at the State Security Court were detained Feb. 8 following a spate of bombing attacks throughout last year on supermarkets selling liquor and cinemas showing pornographic films. The prosecution maintains that the men were behind the attacks.

The 22 men have pleaded innocent to prosecution charges, which also include planning attacks against Israeli and American establishments in the region and the illegal stockpiling of arms and explosives.

The men are also accused of affiliation with a clandestine group, nicknamed the

"Arab Afghans," which consist of former volunteers who fought alongside Afghan rebels against the Soviet occupation of Afghanistan.

The prosecution said the group is funded by Osama Ben Laden, a renegade Muslim leader from Saudi Arabia, and has cells throughout the Middle East.

Its objective is to topple existing Arab and Muslim governments and erect a purist Islamic state, or caliphate, Prosecution General Mahmoud Obeidat said.

In Tuesday's four-hour session, another prosecution witness alleged that members of the group had trained him to use heavy weapons to participate in attacks on movie theatres, bars and nightclubs.

Osama Al Momani, 26, said group members held such places to be part of a wave of sin that was corrupting the country's morals and destroying Islamic teachings.

Mr. Momani said he later became frightened and quit the group.

The other two witnesses also had testimony that incriminated the defendants in the

bombing attacks.

The session was later adjourned until Wednesday when the prosecution will continue presenting its arguments.

At Monday's session, witness Ali Wureiqat told the tribunal that one of the defendants asked him to ferret out home addresses of Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali and former Foreign Minister Kamel Abu Jaber. Both were directly involved in peace talks with Israel.

Mr. Hureiqat, 40, testified during the four-hour session that the defendant had also asked him to monitor the movement of former Palestinian peace negotiators Haidar Abdul Shafi and Hanan Ashrawi who frequented Jordan at the outset of Arab-Israeli peace negotiations in 1991.

He told the tribunal that the intention of the 25 men was to assassinate the negotiators for participating in the U.S.-backed Middle East peace process.

Iraq battling to ease sanctions

BAGHDAD (R) — Iraq is striving to muster as much support as possible before the U.N. Security Council reviews its crippling Gulf war trade sanctions in mid-September.

Senior Iraqi officials, roaming the world to plead their case, have been getting a hearing in some places — but not in the United States, which holds a Security Council veto.

"Iraq's case now sounds plausible to many countries, including some permanent members of the Security Council," says a Western diplomat in Baghdad.

Baghdad regularly complains that countries that want the four-year-old sanctions continued will not say in clear terms what more is required before it can resume vital oil exports and trade normally with the world.

Washington, it says, has rebuffed all Iraqi overtures for a dialogue because it hopes the trade embargo will destabilise the government of President Saddam Hussein.

Diplomats say Iraq is now signalling that it will not accept new conditions from the Security Council unless it gets a guarantee that the result will be the lifting of sanctions.

"Baghdad feels it has given everything for the sake of exporting oil again, but at the same time it sees no light at the end of the tunnel," one diplomat said.

"Without guarantees, I do not think Baghdad will accept any more conditions."

The Security Council has been unanimous in insisting that Baghdad recognise Kuwait within its newly demarcated borders, putting rest the root issue — Iraq's August 1990 conquest of its small but wealthy neighbour.

The United States, however, is determined to hold out on a host of other issues. It demands that Baghdad halt what it describes as "serious human rights violations."

It also wants Iraq to contribute to peace and stability in the region, which one diplomat sees as "an overt call on Baghdad to join the Middle East peace process."

Iraq firmly denied several recent press reports that it was making secret contacts with Israel.

It has, however, allowed the United Nations to destroy weapons banned under the Gulf war ceasefire terms and accepted an intrusive U.N. monitoring to ensure that the weapons programmes will not be revived.

It believes that both China and France are now sympathetic to its case.

Foreign Ministry Undersecretary Riyadh Al Qeisi has been in Russia this week. Iraq's official newspapers say he "found Moscow had a sincere desire ... to have the sanctions on Iraq lifted."

Deputy Prime Minister Tareq Aziz, who functions as Iraq's foremost international envoy, flew to Morocco this month carrying a message from President Saddam to King Hassan.

COLUMN

S. Africa faces wave of pornography

JOHANNESBURG (R) — South Africa faces a wave of pornography as draconian apartheid-era censorship is lifted, a government official says.

"There's a glut of this stuff (pornography) on world markets... they're looking for new avenues and see an opening here," said Braam Coetzee, who as publications director has helped to watch over the nation's morals for the past 14 years. "We are already seeing things streaming in from overseas... people think everything is free here now," said Mr. Coetzee.

adding that little could be done to halt the flow as South Africa emerged from its apartheid isolation. "I think it's inevitable because there is quite a big gap between the (old) publications act and the freedoms guaranteed in the new constitution... naturally one has to take cognisance of what's written into the new constitution," Mr. Coetzee told Reuters.

"The constitution, which came into force at the same time as the April all-race elections won by Nelson Mandela's African National Congress, guarantees the rights of individuals to see, hear or read what they wish. Controls have gradually relaxed over the past couple of years — Mr. Coetzee cites last year's uncensored screening of the Sharon Stone film Basic Instinct — but the old publications act is still used to ban or censor films or magazines considered undesirable."

White House frowns at effigy burning of Hillary

MARTHA'S VINEYARD, Massachusetts (AFP) — The White House voiced disapproval at the effigy burning of first lady Hillary Clinton at a weekend rally staged by tobacco industry advocates in Kentucky.

"The president thinks it's time to tone down the rhetoric," White House press secretary Dee Dee Myers said from the Clintons' vacationing spot. Ms. Myers said Mr. Clinton considered higher taxes on cigarettes to be fair "because of the impact of cigarette smoking on the health care system."

About 100 people gathered Saturday in the town of Owensboro, Kentucky, to protest plans by the Clinton administration to partially fund health care reform with a higher cigarette taxes. Stan Arachkivitz, president of the Kentucky Association of Tobacco Supporters, chanted "Burn baby burn" after pouring gasoline on a dummy wearing a dress and a tag reading "I'm Hillary" and setting it ablaze. "Hillary didn't last as long as my Marlboro," he added. "If we don't stand up for tobacco, we'll go down with it," U.S. Representative Ron Lewis told the crowd. He said later that he did not know that the effigy burning had been planned for the rally.

Pope wages war on U.N. population forum

By Jean-Louis De La Vaissiere
Agence France Presse

VATICAN CITY — Pope John Paul II has launched a personal crusade against what he sees as a threat to traditional family structures posed by the upcoming U.N. World Population Conference in Cairo.

The week-long conference, which opens on Sept. 5, is based on the principle of boosting social development by stabilising population growth.

But while the Pope does not deny the problem posed by soaring population in some poor countries, he has expressed "painful surprise" at the conference's proposed solutions, outlined in the draft resolution.

He has fired off documents, messages, speeches and sermons to explain his "concerns" about the draft document on population control.

And the Vatican, which is sending 16 experts to Cairo, has said it may refuse to sign the final conference resolutions if changes are not made.

The forum's draft resolution calls for the prevention

of unmarried pregnancies and reducing abortion rates, but recommends that women should be given reliable information on abortions and that the operation should be safe.

The Vatican immediately accused it of condoning abortion, homosexuality and extra-marital sex.

"We are hearing surprising commentaries, to say the least, on the population issue," the Pope said Sunday.

"In reality the future of the family and society itself is at stake."

"It would be a grave mistake if, at the Cairo conference, we are willing to accept a sexuality stripped of ethical references in response to the problem of rapid population growth, instead of aiming to promote a culture of responsible procreation."

The Pope's main argument is against abortion. The sanctity of life from the moment of conception has been his most consistent rallying cry throughout his 16-year pontificate.

In a letter to Nafis Sadik, secretary general of the conference, the Pope condemned the draft resolution for not setting out in black and

white that "abortion should not in any case be promoted as a method of family planning."

The previous conference in Mexico in 1984 included that clause in its resolution.

The Vatican also voiced concern at a reference to "sexual health" in the draft resolutions, which it said unfavourably seemed to involve "a right to safe, efficient, accessible and acceptable abortion."

"We cannot defend positions which accept abortion as an essential part of the politics of health," the Vatican said.

The Pope has evoked the risk of third world adolescents turning increasingly to abortion, thanks to its legalisation, without securing their parents' consent.

On Sunday, he returned to the theme of damage to the family, in a message from his summer residence of Castelgondolfo near Rome.

He said he was "worried by the contemporary document's approach to sexuality in a too individualistic way, without taking into account social implications underlying the institution of marriage and the family."

Quoting Greek philosopher Aristotle, the former moral theology professor said: "The family predates and is more necessary than the state."

In a letter to heads of state in March the Pope also wrote: "Reading the document gives a bitter impression of a style of life from the fringe of developed society being imposed."

But for many the most controversial aspect of the Vatican's position is its repeated refusal to accept artificial methods of contraception.

Only natural methods of "responsible procreation" are judged to conform with divine will.

In the Pope's view, the problem of over-population is primarily an issue of distribution of wealth and help. Rich countries, frightened of poor countries, want to limit birth rates which for the poor are a form of old-age insurance.

The United Nations population conference, which is held every 10 years, will be attended by 20,000 delegates from more than 150 countries. (see related story on page 2).



Fresh from his ten-day holiday in the Aosta Valley in northern Italy, Pope John Paul II delivers the Angelus prayer to the faithful at his summer residence 28 August. Papal sources said that the Pontiff had fully recovered from his leg injury (AFP photo)